

WEST END WATCH
something new in the watch world...
Yacoub Yousef Behbehani

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Kinnock warns Israel

Armed forces cannot contain human explosion indefinitely

GAZA CITY, Feb 19, (Agencies): British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock warned Israel it could not use armed force indefinitely to contain the "human explosion" brewing in the impoverished refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the United Command, who is organising the anti-Israeli uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip called today for a week of demonstrations and general strikes to protest a visit next week by US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Ending a four-day visit to Israel and the occupied areas, Kinnock showed reporters two bullets which Arab doctors told him were fired down by soldiers to cause maximum injuries to Palestinian protesters.

Kinnock's visit has been marked by statements he made on alleged use of banned explosive ammunition against Arab rioters.

While telling a news conference the munitions were not "dum-dum" or explosive bullets, Kinnock said: "I have two fired, small-calibre bullets that were taken from bodies, fortunately living, who were shot in Gaza."

Explosive

"What I saw was an X-ray which showed shattering of the bone and flesh consistent with the use of explosive bullets," he said.

He said he was sure Israeli commanders did not endorse such actions but there was "particular seriousness in the actions of people prepared to go to the lengths of firing down bullets knowing the consequences on the human body."

Meanwhile, hundreds of masked youths paraded the Palestinian flag through the largest town in the occupied West Bank after Friday prayers and clashed with Israeli troops, eyewitnesses said.

The troops fired rubber bullets and tear gas at the youths emerging from Friday prayers in Nablus and beat up several but no deaths were reported, they added.

The Army said it had been a quiet day in the occupied territories.

Running

A photographer saw Israeli paramilitary border police at the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus fire rubber bullets at a teenager's back from two metres (six feet) range. The youth was hit but kept running.

Eyewitnesses said the level of violence in Nablus was low compared to last Friday, when two youths were killed in clashes in the ancient Casbah market. The 10-week Palestinian uprising has claimed at least 57 lives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In occupied Jerusalem, scores of police patrolled the Temple Mount, today to prevent disturbances after prayers. An Army helicopter circled overhead.

The speaker at the revered Al Aqsa mosque told the congregation the Israeli police presence was a desecration of the site, reminding them that the desecration of the honour of a Muslim woman once caused a holy war. But worshippers dispersed peacefully.

Every Friday, Israeli troops are out in force near mosques, ready to quell unrest after noon prayers.

Despite a recent lull in the violence, Israel is deploying 1,500 reinforcements in Arab neighbourhoods in and around Jerusalem to prepare for the visit of Shultz.

The Army said it slapped curfews on the Tulkarem and Danaba refugee camps on the West Bank to prevent planned anti-Israeli demonstrations. A petrol bomb thrown at an Israeli bus near Ramallah caused no damage and demonstrations were reported in Hebron.

Prevented

In Gaza, Palestinian sources said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) representative Bernard Mills was prevented by Israeli soldiers from entering the camp. UNRWA could not be reached for comment.

The sources said there were demonstrations in several Gaza Strip refugee camps. They said Israeli troops burst into the Ahli Hospital in the centre of Gaza to arrest a youth.

Shultz will meet Israeli leaders next week to discuss new US peace proposals. But the initiative has already run into trouble, with both Israeli right-wingers and Palestinian nationalists expressing opposition.

Several Palestinian leaders have said they would not meet Shultz without prior, public approval from the PLO.

"Because of the strong anti-Shultz and anti-American feeling in the occupied territories right now, such a meeting could endanger the lives of the people participating," said one leading Palestinian.

70 feared dead as boat sinks

CALCUTTA, Feb 19, (Reuters): Over 70 people were feared dead after a crowded boat capsized in shark-infested waters near the mouth of the river Ganges in northeast India, police said today.

The boat carrying more than 120 passengers sank in a tributary of the Ganges 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Calcutta yesterday. Only 40 survivors and nine bodies had been found, a police spokesman said.

"I do not think the rest have any chance. The bodies must have been eaten up by sharks in the sea by now," he said.



A Palestinian is carried to a waiting ambulance in the Casbah area of Nablus. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arabs call for UN session on PLO mission

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 19, (Reuters): The Arab states have proposed resuming the UN General Assembly to consider action on the threatened US closure of the PLO mission, their spokesman said yesterday.

Clovis Maksoud, UN representative of the Arab League, said they made their formal request on Wednesday and wanted the session held by Feb 29.

Diplomats said there was no doubt that the proposal would be heeded and that whatever action was then sought by the Arab states and their other Third World allies was virtually certain to be approved.

The most likely course, according to Maksoud, was submission of the case to the World Court for an advisory opinion.

Decision

A UN spokesman said the American authorities had not notified Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of their decision about the PLO mission, but this was expected by the end of the week.

Perez de Cuellar has said, and the State Department agreed, that closing the mission would contravene an agreement between the United States and the United Nations.

Under the agreement, US authorities must facilitate the entry and functioning of PLO representatives invited to participate in UN activities.

The PLO has a special status that permits its representatives, nominally observers, to routinely take part in UN debates without the right to vote.

US walks out on Arafat

GENEVA, Feb 19, (Reuters): The United States walked out of a United Nations human rights meeting today when PLO leader Yasser Arafat started a savage attack on Israel.

All other members of the Western group sat through the address, in which Arafat denounced Israeli policies in the occupied territories and called for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the capital.

"With every passing day the Israeli government innovates more brutal, more oppressive and more criminal ways and methods," he told the 40-member UN human rights commission.

"The Israeli government gives free rein to armed fanatic gangs of settlers in the occupied territories, under the protection and with the participation of the Army," the PLO chairman added.

Beirut group claims abduction

Hunt stepped up for US officer

TYRE, Lebanon, Feb 19, (Reuters): Shiite Muslim Amal militiamen mounted a major search in South Lebanon today for a kidnapped American peacekeeping officer as a group said it was holding him as a Central Intelligence Agency agent.

William Higgins, agent of the Central Intelligence Agency who uses the (UN) observers' work as a cover for his dangerous spying mission, is in the hands of our mujahideen," the Organisation of the Oppressed of the World said.

Its statement, delivered to an international news agency in West Beirut, was accompanied by a photocopy of two cards — one in English and another in Hebrew — with a picture of Higgins, a Marine lieutenant colonel, and a signature.

The group has claimed responsibility for killing several hostages in the past.

Search

Amal officials said scores of militiamen raided homes in and around Tyre overnight in search of Higgins, abducted on Wednesday near the port 70 km (48 miles) south of Beirut.

Higgins, 43, headed the Lebanon unit of the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), which monitors Israel's borders with Arab countries. He was one of 76 UN officers among the 76 UN observers in South Lebanon.

Amal official Atef Aoun declined to give details of the political affiliations of people in the raided homes or of the number arrested. But witnesses confirmed that Amal forces were conducting a big and intensive search.

A sketch had been drawn of one of three bearded men who forced Higgins out of his UN car near Tyre soon after he had visited a senior Amal official, a Reuters reporter said.

The Organisation of the Oppressed of the World, in its Arabic typewritten statement, demanded the "withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanese territories, the release of all mujahideen prisoners — Lebanese and Palestinians — from the Khiam and all Zionist prisons in occupied Palestine."

An Israeli-backed militia holds about 300 Arabs at a prison camp near Khiam in South Lebanon.

The statement also demanded an "end to American interference in all its forms and aspects in Lebanon."

"We have captured the throat of the criminal American serpent, agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and one of the biggest spying men..." it said.

In December 1986, the group said it had killed three kidnapped Lebanese Jews. A year earlier, the bullet-riddled body of another Lebanese Jew was found in West Beirut and the group said it had killed him.

In its statement today it warned US President Reagan of the consequences of "crimes committed by his agents against our people and oppressed nation."

Members of the 5,800-man UN Interim Force in South Lebanon (Unifil) have now been ordered to go armed at all times in the south, not to go out with less than two escorts and to avoid suspicious areas, officers said. Higgins, as is UNTSO practice, was unarmed when seized.

In Washington, President Reagan said today he would not order home American officers serving with the United Nations in Lebanon following the kidnapping of Higgins there this week.

Reagan told reporters at a photo session with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl he was worried about the other 16 US officers in Lebanon but that Washington would uphold its commitment to the UN.

"No, we're going to meet our obligations to the United Nations," he said when asked if he would order the withdrawal of Americans serving with the UN peacekeeping group in Lebanon.

"Of course we worry because we know terrorists throughout the world targeted us as one of their targets," he said.

The United Nations has warned the Lebanese government of possible consequences for UN activity in that country following three abductions of its staff, the world body said yesterday.

Heavy rains in UAE

ABU DHABI, Feb 19, (Kuna): Thirty construction workers yesterday sustained various injuries, mostly minor, as rooftops of their residences were torn apart by torrential rains accompanied by snow.

Heavy rains, which have been pouring down non-stop, also uprooted some trees and barriers surrounding a number of construction sites.

Moreover, the floods in the "Hatta" area in Dubai washed away a passenger car with three people aboard. Two were able to escape, the third is still missing.

Metecological officials recorded 129 millimetres of rain in one day.

A number of sources said that the UAE has never witnessed rains of such intensity and continuity for many years.

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Freedom Party

COLOMBO, (AP): Sri Lanka's largest opposition party will boycott provincial council elections that the government had hoped would begin to resolve the island's 4-year-old ethnic conflict, a Freedom Party official said.

New contract

LONDON, (AP): Strikers at Ford's British plants have voted by a big majority for a new contract and will return to work next week. But new strife in the auto industry loomed yesterday when pay talks at Land Rover broke down, threatening to precipitate a strike there.

Stolen computer

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): Police who went to question a suspected thief, Wilfried Nusken, at his home found all the evidence they needed — on a computer he had stolen.

Brain dead

LOMA LINDA, California, (UPI): Baby John, born this week virtually without a brain, has been declared brain dead and put on a respirator, becoming the first infant used in a programme that "harvests" organs for transplants.

Soviet message

DAMASCUS, (AP): President Hafiz Assad received a letter yesterday from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the latest attempts to reach a peace settlement in Afghanistan.

Evidence

LONDON, (Reuters): The United States has sent Britain possible evidence about the alleged World War Two interrogation of British commandos by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim when he served in the German Army. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

Peace initiative

AMMAN, (Reuters): Jordan is canvassing other Arab nations on the new American peace initiative ahead of the arrival in the region next week of US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Goulding in Amman

AMMAN, (AP): United Nations Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding arrived yesterday for two days of talks with Jordanian officials. Goulding declined to give any comments on his arrival in Amman and said he will not be "available for any interview in the next two days."

Civil service

LONDON, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has announced she will hand over authority for 70,000 of Britain's 580,000 civil servants to 12 new agencies run by private industry-style executives rather than government ministers.

Sex killer

GUAYAQUIL, (AP): A Colombian who admitted raping and murdering 72 women and girls in Ecuador was sentenced to a maximum prison term of 16 years, judge Vicente Del Pino said.

15 die in bank blast

WINDHOEK, Namibia, Feb 19, (Agencies): At least 15 people were killed by a bomb blast which ripped through a crowded bank today in one of the deadliest attacks in Namibia's 21-year-old bush war.

Police blamed the attack in the northern town of Oshana on guerrillas of the Southwestern Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), fighting for the independence of the South African-ruled territory.

But Swapo spokesman Hibopo Hamutemba denied responsibility, saying: "The bomb is part of South Africa's dirty propaganda campaign to smear the name of Swapo."

Hurt

Police said about 25 kg (55 pounds) of plastic explosive was used in the bombing which demolished a branch of the First National bank in the garrison town just south of Namibia's border with Angola.

A military spokesman, revising earlier police figures, said the dead were nine black women, three black men, one white woman and one black child.

Nine dead as explosions rock Punjab cities

AMRITSAR, Feb 19, (Agencies): Sikh separatists hurled home-made bombs into court complexes in four cities in the north Indian state of Punjab today, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 63, police said.

Police in the state capital Chandigarh said the bombings were believed carried out by the Khalistan Commando Force, one of the extremist groups fighting for a separate Sikh homeland.

In the latest attack, extremists tossed a bomb into a crowded court compound in Patiala, 120 km (75 miles) south-east of Amritsar, killing three people and injuring two.

Experts

Police also recovered an exploded bomb in Jullundur, wrapped in a plastic bag and left on a motorcycle outside the district courthouse. Army bomb disposal experts were summoned by police, the Press Trust of India said.

In the first explosion, extremists hurled at a district court complex in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar just before noon (0630 GMT), killing a driver and injuring 19 people, police in Amritsar said.

Less than an hour later another bomb exploded in the district court complex of Gurdaspur, 40 km (25 miles) from Amritsar, killing two people and injuring 23.

Within minutes, a third explosion hit the district court of Hoshiarpur city, 113 km (70 miles) from Amritsar. Two people, including a woman, died and four were injured.

The explosions prompted

authorities to place police on maximum alert across north India, including the capital, New Delhi.

Police said security forces had sealed off all other court complexes, which usually also contain main administrative buildings and police headquarters, across the state.

Punjab police also redoubled guards at police stations and posted policemen at bus stands after receiving information these might come under extremist attack.

They said it was the first time since 1986 that Sikh separatist extremists had used bombs extensively and the first to be directed against crowds at Punjab courts.

Police said the hand grenade-sized bombs were crude and appeared to have been made by the extremists themselves using nails and screws packed together with simple explosives.

But they said the timing of the attacks was well-planned and coordinated.

Blasts

The first three blasts occurred just before and after lunch while lawyers, court workers and others waiting to hear cases were standing in the open compounds around the courts.

Police in Amritsar said security forces along India's border with Pakistan had, over a two-week period late last year, confiscated 40 small foreign-made high-explosive bombs from two suspected militants. Markings on the bombs had been erased.

Violence triggered by Sikh militants has killed nearly 210 people so far this year against 1,200 people in 1987.

Ships warned of suspected mine in Gulf

MANAMA, Feb 19, (Agencies): The marine radio in Qatar issued warnings to ships today after a vessel reported spotting what appeared to be a mine off the west coast of the Gulf peninsula state.

The radio in Doha, the capital of Qatar, advised ships to remain clear of the area, in waters between Qatar and the island state of Bahrain.

Shipping executives said an unidentified ship had reported sighting an object that was "black, with points," about 4 pm (1300 GMT). There was no confirmation that it was a mine.

The waters in the area are too shallow for major shipping and unlikely to have been mined, but a few of the mines have been found in the past in waters off Bahrain and Qatar, apparently after drifting down from the northern Gulf.

However, most suspected sightings of mines have turned out to be floating debris, ranging from oil drums to dead sheep with their feet sticking out of the water.

Destroy

A French warship, the Corvette Montcalm, used gun fire to destroy a floating mine north of Bahrain yesterday, according to Kuwait News Agency, quoting French naval officials in Paris.

An Iranian oil tanker, recently repaired after an Iraqi air attack has collided with a Cypriot ship in the Gulf, shipping sources said yesterday.

They said the 106,790-tonne Khark 2, hit by a missile in September, collided with the 217,257-tonne ore and oil carrier Alster Star 55 miles northwest of Iran's Lavan Island on Thursday.

In Baghdad, a senior Soviet diplomat said yesterday an arms embargo against Iran may be necessary but expressed doubts about its effectiveness in ending the Gulf war.

But Moscow was ready to support such a move by the UN Security Council, added Oleg Grinevsky, a special envoy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Grinevsky, who is on a tour of the region, delivered a message earlier in the day to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Heroic dog awarded

NEW HAVEN, Vermont, Feb 19, (UPI): Bear, a heroic dog that saved a boy named Zeke from an icy pond, has been awarded a bronze medal for its deed and will receive a bundle of canine delicacies each Christmas for the rest of its life.

The Newfoundland mix rescued young Zeke Perkins after the boy fell through ice on a pond near his parents' farm in December.

Delta, or Dedication and Everlasting Love To Animals, of Glendale, California, awarded the shaggy hero a bronze medal on a red, white and blue ribbon, an inscribed golden bowl, 30 pounds (13.5 kg) of dog treats, a dog bed and an insulated dog house.

The animal will also receive an annual Christmas bundle, said Julie Price, a spokeswoman for Delta, a 23,000-member non-profit organisation.

Safety

Zeke, 5, and his two sisters, Martha, 8, and Sarah, 7, trudged across their parents' property and began playing on a neighbour's frozen pond. The ice suddenly broke.

Martha and Sarah scrambled to safety, but Zeke became mired in mud and couldn't pull himself free.

"Zeke kept losing his footing and slipped further and further from shore," Missy Perkins, the children's mother, said yesterday. "Bear had to kind of wade half on the ice and half off and she grabbed him by the collar of his coat and pulled him in enough so that he could get a little better footing. Then she turned around so he could grab her tail and then she pulled him up."

Plan to hike airport tax

BAHRAIN, Feb 19, (Reuters): Bahrain will increase its airport departure tax by 50 per cent to three dinars (eight dollars) in March, Akhtar Al Kalesi newspaper reported today.

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آن کے اردو صفحات میں

بھارتی پنجاب کے بارشوں میں دھماکے
اور دھماکے

مقبوض علاقوں میں مزاحمتی مظاہرے
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WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light variable to moderate southerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 2.00 am, 1.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 8.30 pm
Sunrise: 6.24 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 21°C 70°F
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F
Fadhla: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
Ahmad: 20°C 68°F
Fadhla: 20°C 68°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 75 per cent
Ahmad: 68 per cent
Fadhla: 80 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 80 per cent
Ahmad: 75 per cent
Fadhla: 80 per cent
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 9°C 48°F
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F
Fadhla: 15°C 59°F

Presidential race thrown wide open in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Feb. 19. (AP): Cyprus' most hotly contested presidential election was thrown wide open today after ousted President Sypros Kyprianou refused to back either of the two frontrunners.

That left his 91,000 supporters free to vote either way in a final ballot next Sunday.

Kyprianou's Centrist Democratic Party, Diko, said it did not agree with the stands of either veteran political warhorse Glafcos Clerides, leader of the right-wing Democratic Rally Party, or millionaire businessman George Vassiliou.

Diko's surprise move came after days of back-room bargaining between the two frontrunners and rivals knocked out of the race in a first-round ballot last Sunday.

UN asked to probe human rights abuses in Philippines

MANILA, Feb. 19. (Agencies): Philippine human rights groups have filed a petition with the United Nations charging the government with "gross and systematic" violations of human rights, a spokesman said today.

The petition filed yesterday would be heard by the UN Commission on Human Rights on Feb. 23. Alvaro Senturias of the Philippine alliance of human rights advocates told reporters.

"Task force detainees, a human rights organisation backed by several religious orders, said it had documented cases of 602 people being tortured while in military custody."

The group also blamed the armed forces for the summary executions of 239 people in 1987

and for the forced evacuation of almost 19,000 families as a result of military operations in the countryside.

Pattern
"The present government of the Republic of the Philippines under President Corason Aquino continues to commit and perpetuate a consistent pattern of gross and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Filipino people," the petition said.

"What is going on is that the situation is getting worse," Senturias said.

The petition also said the United States was aiding Manila's anti-insurgency campaign. Local and foreign human

rights groups have criticised the Philippine government's policy of "total war" against the country's 19-year old communist insurgency.

Others, however, have accused task force detainees of being a communist front group working to undermine the Aquino administration.

The government's human rights commissioner, Mary Concepcion Bautista, has said 1,500 cases of alleged human rights violations were being investigated but denied abuses were being committed systematically.

Bautista said on Monday the government would oppose a move by activists to discuss alleged rights abuses before the UN's human rights commission.

Military to get role in Indonesian politics

JAKARTA, Feb. 19. (Reuters): An Indonesian parliamentary committee announced today on legislation enshrining the role of the military in the political life of South-East Asia's largest nation.

The legislation is expected to be approved on Monday ahead of the expected re-election next month of 66-year-old President Suharto for a fifth term office that will keep him in power until 1993.

Critics said the legislation as originally presented last November would have made the military too strong. It has undergone extensive revision during the past three months with 226 amendments.

Defence Minister Poniman said the legislation modified the

Army's role in both politics and defence which has underpinned Suharto's new order government since he rose to power after crushing an attempted communist coup 22 years ago.

Poniman told the defence committee today that the legislation presented in two draft bills was designed to pass on to successor generations the present system of military participation in government.

General Try Sutrisno, the present Army commander who will take over command of Indonesia's 480,000-strong military and police force at the end of the month, pledged in testimony to the committee yesterday that the Army would not set up a military dictatorship.

'Superpower rivalry blocks development'

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 19. (Reuters): The struggle between the superpowers was a major obstacle to the true progress of underdeveloped countries, Pope John Paul II said in a major encyclical on social justice issued today.

The encyclical, "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" (social concern), said the world debt crisis had aggravated underdevelopment and the Pope called for changes in international trade, monetary and financial systems to help poorer countries.

He said churches in areas of massive poverty should not hesitate to sell superfluous possessions to help the poor.

The 102-page encyclical, a pastoral letter to the entire Roman Catholic church, is Pope John Paul's seventh. It was a follow-up to Pope Paul VI's major 1967 encyclical "Populorum Progressio" (progress of peoples), which coined the phrase "development is the new name of peace."

Favour
Since that encyclical was issued Pope John Paul said, the global situation had worsened. The poor had become more numerous and churches might have to deal with poverty more aggressively.

"Faced by cases of need one cannot ignore them in favour of superfluous church ornaments and costly furnishings for divine worship. On the contrary it could be obligatory to sell these goods in order to provide food, drink, clothing and shelter for those who lack these things," he said without elaborating.

Saying the church was critical of liberal capitalism as well as Marxist collectivism, the Pope described the excessive availability of fall types of material goods in the West which had spawned a "cult of having" fed by artificial needs.

He dedicated a main part of the encyclical to the post-war division of the world into opposing East-West blocs but did not specifically mention any country.

"Each of the two blocs harbours in its own way a tendency towards imperialism or towards forms of neo-colonialism: an easy temptation to which they frequently succumb."

NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS carriers

TOKYO, Feb. 19. (Reuters): Reported carriers of the AIDS virus in Japan topped 1,000 people and health officials warned Japanese travelling abroad to refrain from having sex with prostitutes.

The number of known carriers of the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the country totalled 1,016 people at the end of January. 30 more than the last survey conducted at the end of Oct., the government's AIDS surveillance committee said today.

Goria wins

ROME, Feb. 19. (Reuters): Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria won a vote of confidence in the chamber of deputies (lower house) yesterday, overcoming the first obstacle in an expected temporary revival of his five-party government.

The government won by 364 to 208 in an open vote. The confidence debate now moves to the senate (upper house) which is likely to vote on Saturday, opening the way for normal parliamentary business to resume next week.

10 hurt in gunbattles

DHAKA, Feb. 19. (Reuters): At least 10 people were wounded in bombings and gunbattles during a political rally in northern Bangladesh on Wednesday, police said.

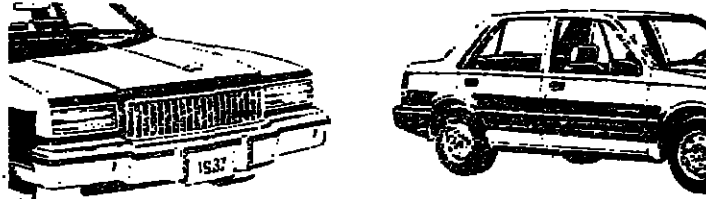
They said hundreds of people attending a Freedom Party rally at Chapai Nawabganj ran for cover when dozens of homemade bombs exploded and rival activists fired automatic weapons.

Egyptian minister

BONN, Feb. 19. (Reuters): Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr met senior West German officials today to discuss closer cooperation in combating drug trafficking and terrorism, an Egyptian embassy spokesman said.

20 Sudanese killed

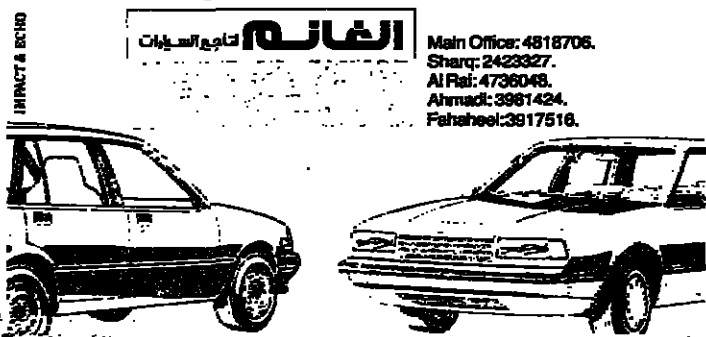
KHARTOUM, Feb. 19. (Reuters): Ethiopian tribesmen killed 20 people in a raid on border villages in southeast Sudan, a Khartoum newspaper reported today.



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	52 Surveying & Mapping
	94 Fitness & Nutrition
	22 Wildlife Conservation
	19 Veterinary Assistant
	246 TV Radio Servicing
	2608 Building Trades
	106 General Business
	144 Practical English
	04 Auto Mechanics
	10 Bookkeeping
	02 Electronics
	21 Secretary
	06 Electrician
	23 Police Sciences
	32 Art
	08 Legal Secretary
	55 Diesel Mechanics
	87 TV/VCR Repair
	03 Child Day Care
	85 Drafting
	35 Travel Agent
	250A Architecture
	260C Machine Shop
	161 Engineering
	41 Journalism/Short Story Writing
	40 Photography

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Chinese carpets and rarities

The exhibition will be from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm

فولدي (ت) دنن هوليداي

NISSAN

PATROL

Wagon Standard Roof

هكزامن الامم

Nasser's son refuses to come home

CAIRO, Feb 19. (AP): Gamal Abdel Nasser's eldest son Khaled rejected a personal appeal from President Hosni Mubarak that he come home from Yugoslavia to face allegations linking him with an anti-US, anti-Israeli terror group, a family member says.

Businessman Ashraf Marawan, the former president's son-in-law, also told a state-owned magazine that two Arab countries turned down asylum requests by Khaled Abdul Nasser before Yugoslavia accepted him.

Khaled and 19 others were indicted formally on Thursday in connection with four shooting attacks in Cairo on Israeli and US diplomats and embassy workers between 1984 and 1987. Two Israelis died and six others and two Americans were wounded.

The 38-year-old Nasser and 10 other defendants face a possible death sentence, the remaining nine, prison terms up to life.

"President Mubarak asked me in the presence of family members last Sept 28, when he visited President Nasser's tomb, that Khaled return to Egypt to appear before prosecutors and explain actions attributed to him," Marawan said.

Sept 28, was the 17th anniversary of Nasser's death from a heart attack. Mubarak has visited the tomb annually on that date since he took office in 1981, and he invariably speaks in glowing terms about the late leader.

Marawan, who is married to Nasser's younger daughter Mona, said he "relayed (Mubarak's) request to Khaled, but he preferred to remain outside Egypt."

Vorontsov criticises interim government demand

Pakistan 'blocking' Afghan settlement

MOSCOW, Feb 19. (AP): A top Soviet official said in an article published yesterday that Pakistan and the anti-communist rebels it supports are making unjustified demands that may prevent settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Yuli Vorontsov, First Deputy Foreign Minister, criticised Pakistan for insisting that arrangements be made now for an interim government in Afghanistan.

"We do not hear anything intelligible from those who had been harping throughout all the last years on the Soviet Union's intention to gain a foothold in Afghanistan," Vorontsov said in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced Feb 8 that if negotiations are successful, the Soviet Union would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan over a 10-month period starting May 15. Talks aimed at completing a settlement package are to resume March 2 in Geneva.

Bombing denied

LONDON, Feb 19. (Reuters): An Iranian opposition group denied today allegations by Iran's national news agency Irna that it was involved in a car bomb blast which injured two people in Tehran.

"The People's Mujahideen of Iran once more vehemently condemn these actions," the group said.

Irna, monitored in Nicosia, blamed yesterday's blast on "agents of the world arrogance."

Pakistan believes arrangements for an interim government must be made before the troop pullout starts to encourage Afghan refugees to return home. Some three million Afghans fled their homeland for Pakistan, which is now eager for them to leave.

Vorontsov, who met with Pakistani officials in Islamabad on Feb 10-11, said Pakistan had alleged for many years that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan was discouraging refugees from returning.

"Suddenly the Pakistani side began saying that it was the formation of a new government in Kabul, rather than the withdrawal of Soviet troops, that was needed for the return of refugees," he said.

Vorontsov reiterated the Soviet position that neither Pakistan nor any other outside power should decide what interim government Afghanistan should establish. The burden is now on Pakistan to change its position, he said.

"Pakistan should think over and revise its so far non-constructive approach. For it depends on Pakistan alone now whether the Geneva agreements will be signed shortly," the Soviet envoy said.

Soviet troops, now numbering about 115,000, entered Afghanistan in December 1979 to help the Afghan Army fight anti-communist insurgents who receive weapons from Pakistan and the United States.

Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Zain Noorani, pressed his case for an interim government in a Washington meeting Wednesday with US Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz is scheduled to discuss Afghanistan when he meets Sunday in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Monday with Gorbachev.

The official did not directly link his remarks with the arrival of Shultz, due in Moscow on Sunday.

Roh announces new government

SEOUL, Feb 19. (Reuters): South Korean President-elect Roh Tae-Woo today named a new government which, despite a lot of new faces, looks set to continue the economic, trade and foreign policies of its predecessor.

Roh, who will be sworn in on Feb 25 as successor to retiring President Chun Doo Hwan, retained two key economic ministers together with Foreign Minister Choi Kwang-Soo and the ministers for the interior, justice and sport.

Domestic and foreign analysts saw the new 22-member cabinet as a judicious blend of old and new in line with Roh's campaign pledge of democratic change with stability.

Roh, taking power only a few months before Seoul plays host to the world at the Summer Olympics, set the tone for his administration last week when

he picked as Prime Minister Lee Hyun-Jae. An independent-minded academic who once publicly defied the Chun government.

His aides said Roh saw Lee as an important symbol that South Korea was leaving behind an era of authoritarian rule and now would be governed increasingly by technocrats.

Analysts noted, however, that Roh had reappointed controversial Justice Minister Chung Hae-Chang who recently came under heavy attack for alleged failure to end torture and other abuses of police powers.

They said this made it clear that social change would be introduced cautiously.

Meeting his new government team today, the President-elect told them: "Abolishing social frictions and unifying the country's energies will be a first step towards reunifying (the Korean peninsula) and its people."

US unhappy over Soviet submarine for India

WASHINGTON, Feb 19. (AP): The recent lease by the Soviet Union of an atomic-powered submarine to India threatens to undermine efforts against the spread of nuclear weapons and

technology, a US State Department official says.

The United States regards the lease as "an unfortunate development," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck

told a congressional panel yesterday.

"Encouraging India, which has been a leading opponent of the non-proliferation Treaty, in

the military uses of nuclear energy and provision of closely-held naval reactor technology would... in our view, undermine the international non-proliferation regime."

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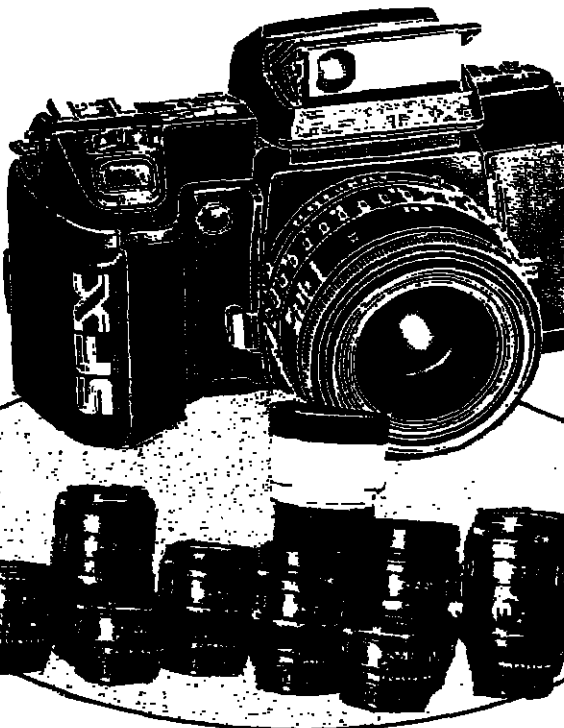
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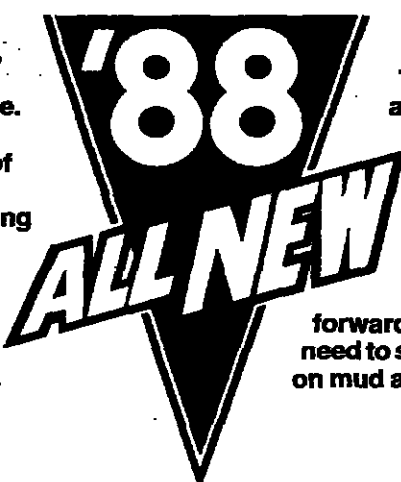
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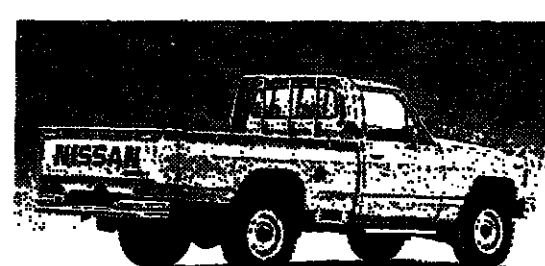
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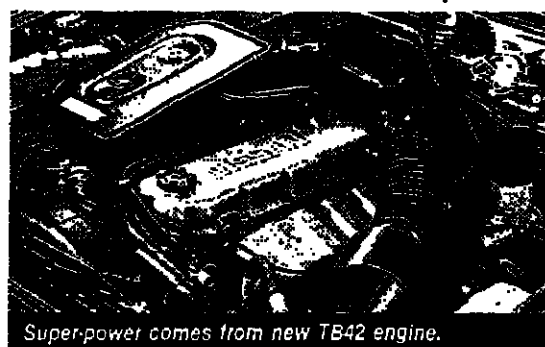
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Bishara to visit Washington

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuters): The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdullah Bishara, will confer with US Defence and foreign policy officials in Washington from next Monday, the State Department said yesterday.

Bishara's talks will concentrate on the Iran-Iraq war and efforts to have the United Nations Security Council pass a resolution enforcing an arms embargo against Iran, the State Department said.

The United States says it wants quick action on an embargo, which would follow a Security Council resolution last July that called for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Bishara will have talks with officials at the State Department, the Pentagon and the National Security Council during his visit, which ends on February 26.

Old souk renovation to start soon

BARRAK Abdul Mohsen Al Turki, the head of the Construction Projects Administration at Kuwait's Public Works Ministry, said that landscaping would begin soon on Amir Street as a part of the stage one work involving the renovation, construction and landscaping of the old souk and Mubarakiya School area.

Speaking to a local newspaper, Al Turki said that stage one would include construction of a number of shops in traditional architectural design near the Old Souk. He said that the overall plan for the area was to create architectural harmony between Souk Al Amir, Mubarakiya School and the mosque near the souk. He added that the carpark would be changed to a courtyard which would blend with the overall traditional construction.

Landscaping the area between the Central Library and the Grand Souk Mosque and construction of a fountain are also planned for the area, he said.

41 summer clubs planned

ABDUL MOHSEN AL SAED, the Assistant Undersecretary of Education for Information and Student Affairs at Kuwait's Education Ministry, said the ministry will open 41 summer clubs from June 20 to August 22.

The summer clubs will be opened in all areas of the country and will offer cultural, religious, sports and social activities, Al Saed said. He added that club members would also visit local landmarks during the course of the summer.

Mubarak's wife to visit UAE

ABU DHABI, Feb 19, (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's wife Suzanne will make a week-long visit to the United Arab Emirates from March 14, the official Emirates news agency WAM said yesterday.

Entrance test

ENTRANCE test for admission to Sainik Schools, 1988/89 session, will be held at the Indian embassy on Feb 21, at 8 am.

All candidates registered for the test are requested to report at the Indian embassy, Shara Istiqal, 34 Bousheri Building along with registration/admission cards.

Uprising will continue until a just settlement: Barges

LONDON, Feb 19, (Kuna): President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) Barges Al Barges has emphasised to several European media leaders that the Palestinian uprising will continue to disturb Israel until a just settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached and Israeli withdrawals from the occupied Arab territories.

Al Barges also told the top European media officials that the more than two-month-old uprising has shown the world how brutal and inhuman the Israelis in face of unarmed civilian protesters calling for basic human rights and self respect.

Fana, president, who is also chairman of the board and director general of the Kuwait news agency, made his remarks during separate interviews with officials from European media institutions in Geneva, Vienna and London.

Coverage

His current tour, in which he is accompanied by Secretary General of Fana Farid Ayyar, sought to express Fana's appreciation for Western press coverage of the uprising in the occupied territories and meet with high officials from United Nations Human Rights Committee and the International Red Cross.

In London, where he is currently visiting, Al Barges held a series of meetings including one with editor of foreign news at the British Broadcasting Corporation John Manoney, the regional

director of United Press International Charles Curmi and editor-in-chief of Reuters news agency Michael Reupke.

He also met with the President of the Council for Advancement of Arab-British understanding David Watkins and the director of the Arabic section of the BBC Bob Jobbins and several others.

Return

During his talks, Al Barges said the emergence of the uprising has proved, once again, insistence of the Palestinians to return to their homeland and their firm belief in their right to live in an independent state.

While condemning Israeli measures in confronting the demonstrators, the Kuwaiti press official said those measures violate basic international laws, especially when applied to children and women, reiterating that the West has just realised the false Israeli claims of being democratic.

In his meetings, Barges also underlined that the Western press should continue to objectively cover the events of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, noting that by doing this the Arabs are not asking them to stand by the Palestinians.

"The revolution by children and women did not come as a surprise to us," he noted, adding that the upheaval was caused by 20 years of lingering problems that deeply frustrated the real owners and residents of the occupied lands.

By clamping down on the protesters with internationally unacceptable means, the Israelis are repeating what the Nazis have done to the Jews during Adolf Hitler's reign, according to Al Barges.

Pressure

Emphasising that the time is ripe now for spending intensive efforts to reach a settlement for the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Fana president has noticed a substantial change, not only in the way the Palestinian case is presented, but also in the way the public opinion is perceiving it.

Several officials whom he met with agreed with him that the United States should now play the largest role in exerting pressure on the Zionist entity and force it to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.

They also shared with him the belief that coverage of the uprising must continue with the same intensity, especially when the Palestinian question is moving to the centre stage of the most explosive problems in the world.

They also told him that the uprising has come as a surprise to them and that they feel guilty of not paying enough attention to it in the beginning as they never thought it would develop into what it is now.

During his talks, the Fana official also discussed coordination with European press institutions to extensively and adequately cover the events of the uprising and the Arab-Israeli conflict.



● The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha, (left), presents prizes to a junior student during the annual prize distribution ceremony of the New Indian School. (Photo by Javed Basra)

School holds annual prize distribution day

THE New Indian School held its annual prize distribution under the patronage of India's Ambassador to Kuwait, N. N. Jha, at the Indian Arts Circle on Feb 18.

The vice principal, P. Soma Kumar, welcomed the gathering, and the principal, S. S. Ganga, presented the annual school report.

In his speech the ambassador said that education should be vocational oriented and good values and principles of life should be well developed in pupils before they graduated from the school.

The highlight was a variety cultural programme that included various dances, in English playlet and an Arabic play. Jha then distributed the prizes.

Zakat House supports 50 children in Hebron

MOHAMMED NASSER AL DIN, the Treasurer of the Hebron Zakat Committee, said the Zakat House supports 50 children and 500 families in Hebron and 200 other families in nearby villages and refugee camps.

School fees are also paid for 1,200 Hebron students by the committee, Al Din said, as well as tuition for 55 students enrolled at Hebron Islamic University.

He said that many families in Hebron suffer from inadequate living conditions resulting from low or no income and lack of free services. Because of these conditions the committee offers the only source of income for many

of Hebron's residents.

Al Din expressed his appreciation to officials of Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for their support of the committee's mission. He added that the committee is one of the most popular committees appointed by the Jordanian Awqaf Ministry, saying that committee members are volunteers rather than government employees.

KD5,000 dowry

THE Jablan tribe has fixed the maximum dowry at KD 5,000, following the example of two other tribes.

The decision was taken on Wednesday evening during a tribal meeting attended by a large number of tribesmen.

The decision comes into effect from March 1.

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Demand for skilled manpower increasing

ISMAEL AL SHATTI, the former Director of Kuwait's Institute for Technology, said the national demand for technical and professional manpower is constantly increasing as capital investments and economic activity increases.

Speaking at a symposium held by the Kuwait Teachers' Society, Al Shatti said the projected annual increase in Kuwait's demand for manpower up to the year 2000 was 3 per cent for engineers, 3.4 per cent for technicians and 3.8 per cent for skilled professional manpower.

He explained that the decrease in the number of Kuwaitis joining technical and professional work sectors, created the dependence on imported manpower. He added that a large percentage of Kuwaitis showed an interest in fine arts and social science at the expense of scientific disciplines.

The estimated number of graduates in the scientific field up to the year 2000 is 65,000, he said, which would meet only 1.19 per cent of the national demand for manpower for the same period estimated at 867,200.

Al Shatti said the local educational institutions were unable to meet the future demand for manpower because of inadequate accommodation for such a large number of students, lack of adequate teaching staff, unstable educational schemes and a general lack of confidence in the applied education system.

He recommended that similar cases in other countries be studied and stressed the need to accelerate the transfer of technology from one generation to another, utilising the total human experience in shaping Kuwait's citizens.

Cultural fund meeting looks into future projects

THE board of directors of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, of which Kuwait is an active member, is currently meeting here to look into future projects worldwide and ways of allocating funds for them.

The fund, which offers moral and financial assistance to cultural and educational projects of geographical location or religion, has since inception in 1977 and until last year undertook 224 projects in 81 countries.

Out of the total expenditures of the fund, 40 per cent goes to finance government and similar official projects while the remaining 60 per cent covers projects presented by non-governmental and non-profit organisations.

Among the projects financed by the fund were in arts, letters, music, theatre, folklore, cinema, handicraft and sculpture.

The board of directors of the fund are also interested in promoting interest in reading by encouraging publication of books of which some appeared in 20 languages and films and recordings.

The fund further opened schools, museums, memory banks, mobile cinemas, conventional cooking and modern and traditional music in countries in all five continents including Italy, Egypt, Portugal, Morocco, Mexico, Thailand, India, Yugoslavia and Ecuador.

Kuwait's Abdul-Aziz Hussein is member of the board of directors of the fund.

Cheese free from bacteria

YOUSSEF Al Meilam, the Director of Food and Shop Licences Department at Kuwait Municipality, said that all cheese marketed in Kuwait had been checked and was free of any harmful bacteria. Al Meilam's announcement followed information that Swiss authorities had removed a number of French and Swiss cheeses from the market because they had been found to contain harmful bacteria.

Kuwait's Health Ministry immediately surveyed import agents for Swiss and French cheeses to Kuwait and found that Kuwait had only one cheese, among those believed to be contaminated, on the market. The cheese was taken for laboratory tests where it was found to be suitable for consumption.

Distribution of flags

THE supreme committee on celebrating the 27th National Day yesterday started distributing flags, pictures and stickers to ministries, corporations and citizens.

Distribution channels include schools, hospitals, non-profit societies, sport associations, Information Ministry's warehouses and youth centres.

Evaluation of lab employees

A COMMITTEE has been formed to study and indicate the rank of employees working in medical laboratories.

The committee, named by the Undersecretary of Kuwait's Health Ministry, will be headed by Dr Abdul Aziz Ahmad Hasanin and will work on organising the employees qualification levels at the ministry laboratories as well as indicating the scientific experience of each employee.

The committee will hold meetings periodically to review qualifications required for laboratory technicians according to each job specification.

Last batch of relief aid

THE fourth and last batch of the Kuwait relief aid to Lebanon left yesterday aboard 42 trucks laden with foodstuffs, medications and clothes, it was officially announced.

The convoy also including 30 buses are scheduled to arrive in Lebanon next Wednesday, Radio Kuwait said.

The total number of trucks that left Kuwait to Lebanon including today's batch is 208 and 60 buses.

Cairo ready to assist Gulf states facing external threats

A TOP Egyptian military commander has strongly hinted, in a press interview published in Kuwait on Thursday, that Cairo would help Arab Gulf states if they felt menaced by external threats and sought Egyptian assistance.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence and Military Production, Field Marshal Abdulhalim Abu Ghazalah told a Kuwaiti newspaper that such assistance would only come at the request of the Gulf states.

Abu Ghazalah pointed out that the Egyptian involvement could take a variety of forms such as cooperation in logistics, providing arms supplies, staff training and equipment maintenance in addition to exchange of military consultations.

He asserted that Egypt and President Mubarak in particular feel strongly about the national security of Arab Gulf states in light of the continuing hostilities

between Iran and Iraq as a result of Tehran's adamant rejection of regional and international peace calls.

But replying to a question, the senior Egyptian military official ruled out that Egypt and Jordan were taking part in an Arab rapid deployment force based in Haifa Al Badin in northeastern Saudi Arabia. "I have not heard of such thing, and don't believe it is possible," the minister remarked.

Dialogue

Abu Ghazalah dismissed the strategic importance of Israeli-Iranian military collaboration and its effect on the balance of force in the Gulf war.

Turning to the popular uprising in occupied Palestine, the defence minister stressed the need for dialogue between Arabs and Israelis, and argued that violence and force only breed chaos and lead to bloodshed.

"Is it not better for us to spare our blood, money and our

present and future and to give dialogue precedence over the bullet," the top Egyptian official asked.

Abu Ghazalah expressed belief that the current Israeli spilling of Palestinian blood in the occupied lands lends urgency to the recent peace initiative of President Hosni Mubarak calling for Palestinian autonomy of one year before full fledged Arab-Israeli peace talks under UN aegis.

He expressed satisfaction over military cooperation between Egypt and the US, saying it is mutually beneficial "and help stabilise the Middle East region."

ROYAL COURT

Congratulations

HH the Amir of Kuwait, on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to Gambia's President Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara on his country's National Day.

Cable of thanks

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Soud Al Abdullah Al Sabah received a cable from the president of the Association of Arab Bourse thanking him for receiving the heads of the Arab delegations during the association's 7th session in Kuwait during February 12 to 14.

In his cable, the association's president lauded Kuwait's efforts in encouraging the association's march and Kuwait's own endeavour to bring the Bourse in the country to its present prestigious position.

Sheikh Sabah replied, thanking the association for their efforts in promoting the role of the Arab Bourse and the service of the Arab economy.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

PLO urged to step up commando operations

A KUWAITI paper on Thursday called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation to reconsider its olive branch policy and step up commando operations in order to bolster the current popular uprising inside occupied Palestine.

Al Rai Al Aam, commenting editorially on the indefinite postponement of the Palestinian 'Ship of Return' that was to take deportees to the occupied homeland, said the experience gives food for thought to the PLO.

The planned return voyage grounded when Israel blasted the ship on Monday in Limassol, Cyprus, should be the starting point for a new approach of Palestinian action, where, the paper urged, military operations gain the lead over political activity.

Al Rai Al Aam recalled that 20 years of political efforts exerted by the PLO were futile because of the US complete partiality to Israel, indicating in this respect that the recent American ideas on peace in the Middle East are more identical to Israel's stance than to addressing Arab and Palestinian demands and aspirations.

"World conditions," the daily said, "are now most opportune for lending strong impetus to (Palestinian) commando work to back up the internal uprising. Israel understands no language other than that of force and masters nothing but terrorism as an art of living and a means for survival," it concluded.

GULF PRESS

US naval fleet reduction

THE United Arab Emirates English language daily Gulf News commented editorially on the US announcement of a reduction in its naval fleet in the Gulf.

The reduction comes as "no surprise" said the Dubai-based daily Gulf News pointing out the US was receiving enough help from its NATO allies.

"More warships and minesweepers have come in to protect their commercial vessels so there is no need for the US to carry more of the burden than is necessary" it said.

However it said "the Navies of the big powers are not moving quickly enough to assume the role of a UN force and to provide protection to all shipping regardless of where they are registered."

"The principle of freedom of navigation in international waters is not being served as a result. The tanker war continues with more damage to ships and more loss of lives every week" it added.

The paper urged for cooperation among the international fleets and eventual implementation of a Soviet proposal for a United Nations naval force in Gulf international waters.

"The big powers would gain much in the eyes of the world by urging their naval forces to act as if they were part of a UN force even if they were not" it said.

Shultz stand criticised

THE Abu Dhabi based newspaper Al Itihad criticised in its editorial the stand of US Secretary of State George Shultz who is scheduled to visit the Middle East soon.

Shultz had announced yesterday that he supports the Israeli stand on the Ship of Return. He said if the US was in Israel's place it would have prevented the ship from reaching New York.

The newspaper said "Shultz need not make such a statement to assert the American commitment to support Israel whether in regard to the Ship of Return or any other issue related to the Arab-Israeli struggle."

The newspaper added "the US has proved again that its leadership is governed by an administration which only accepts the strategic alliance with Israel despite all sincere calls to the contrary."

"The most clear and frank call came recently from the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan who called on the US to pursue an American, rather than an Israeli policy" the newspaper went on to say.

The newspaper concluded "if Shultz had heeded the advice of Sheikh Zayed he would have averted troubles facing his recent tour. But it seems that the US insists on the principle of permanently defending Israel."

Motorist dies as car collides

A MOTORIST died when his car collided with another at the junction with Mina Abdullah bridge. There were 35 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday. Eight took place in the capital, 13 in Hawalli, six in Ahmadi and eight in Jahra.

Three held for bringing liquor

THREE Iraqis were arrested by detectives at Jahra governorate on a charge of bringing liquor into the country for selling.

The detectives seized two cartons of whisky and KD 215 from one of the men.

Road conference approves Saudi resolution against Iran

RIYADH, Feb 19, (Reuters): An International conference on road transport approved yesterday a last minute resolution by host Saudi Arabia condemning Iran for riots in Makkah last July.

Saudi Communications Minister Hussein Al-Mansouri told delegates the five-day conference was concerned with safety and the riots in Makkah had threatened the safety of pilgrims.

"If you agree, I propose including a recommendation to this effect," he said at the closing session of the regional conference of the international road

federation.

The delegates condemn the acts of rioting in the holy places during the haj (pilgrimage) and denounce any party which undertakes these acts, and support Saudi Arabia's position and the steps it takes to preserve the security and safety of the pilgrims to God's house," the resolution said.

More than 400 people, most of them Iranian, were killed in clashes between Saudi security forces and Iranian demonstrators during the pilgrimage to Makkah.

Mansouri's resolution was

greeted by applause from most delegates. "I assume the acclamation means approval of the resolution," Mansouri said.

Saudi Arabia has warned Iran against a repetition of last July's events, while Tehran has spoken of "dark days" for the Saudis if they prevent Iranians taking part in the pilgrimage this year.

The road conference, attended by delegates from 90 countries, was opened on Saturday by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz. Other recommendations adopted earlier aimed at improving the region's road networks.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathies to bereaved Mr. Joseph Denis Diaz and his family on the sad demise of his father, Mr. Anthony Diaz at Bombay on 12/2/88

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TV CORNER

This week on KTV 2

- SUNDAY**
 6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 The Lone Ranger: "High and Dry." Long Ranger's adventures continue for young viewers.
 6.30 Butterfly Island: "The Bad News Boat"
 7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam.
 7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a wacky look at sporting events.
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Hot Shots: "Write of Habeas Corpus". A university professor dies in a way which suggests suicide. Amanda and Jason investigate.
 9.30 Foley Square: "Nobody's Perfect"
 10.00 Q.E.D.
 10.30 Best Seller
 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- MONDAY**
 6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 Yogi's Treasure Hunt: cartoons
 6.30 The Animal Express
 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
 7.30 Don't Wait Up
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: "Beware of Ides of May"
 9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary.
 10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life" Sam's wife meets her father-in-law for the first time and manages to over-

- come her feelings of being perplexed.
 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.
- TUESDAY**
 6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 Rainbow Bright: Peril in the Pits — cartoons.
 6.30 Side Kicks: "Petty Cash." Arnie and his friends find a key for a box in a baggage-check room at the airport which contains a large sum of money.
 7.00 Beyond 2000: a look at aeronautic safety devices and wind as energy for generating electricity.
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme
 8.50 Heart of the City: "Cezanne, and other Dreams." A group of criminals hold an innocent man as a hostage who eventually dies because of an argument among the policemen.
 9.30 Documentary on Kuwait
 10.00 Tracey Ullman Show: a 30-minute comedy featuring short sketches.
 10.30 Feature Film
 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- WEDNESDAY**
 6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 The Get Along Gang: cartoons
 6.30 Micro at Work: "Robots in Action". A look at robots used in games and weapons.
 6.50 The Living Isles: "After



Detective Harry MacGraw joins hands with his attractive lawyer friend to save another innocent victim in a show on Monday at 8.40 pm.

- the Ice." The emergence of new fauna and flora following the retreat of glaciers in northern Scotland.
 7.30 Growing Pains: "The Breakfast Club." Mike lies to his parents and is punished. But he catches his mother lying to her boss.
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 J.J. Starbuck
 9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Walking on Fire."
 10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Ladies and Gents." Lari has a flu but refuses his cousin's suggestions for treatment.
 10.30 Falcon Crest: "New Faces" Melissa leaves for Australia looking for her son while Angela meets the man she was once involved with who claims that
- Richard is their son.
 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.
- THURSDAY**
 3.00 Holy Quran
 3.10 Sports Studio: Big League Soccer. American basketball, and sports magazine.
 6.00 Centurions: cartoon serial.
 6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: "Toby Tyler."
 7.00 Rags to Riches
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Spenser for Hire: "White Night". A wealthy politician plans to get rid of Spenser's friend who is familiar with the rich man's secrets.
 9.30 Bill Cosby Show: "Vanessa's Rich." Vanessa invites her friends out and gives them the impression that she comes from a wealthy

- family.
 10.00 Paul Daniels Magic Show: British illusionist Paul Daniels returns with more magic and tricks.
 10.30 Late Night Movie
 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- FRIDAY**
 3.00 Holy Quran
 3.10 Sports Studio: roundup of world and local sporting events.
 6.00 She Ra: Princess of Power: "A Loss of Words." Cartoons.
 6.30 Airwolf: "Black Jack." John is sent on a mission to the Far East where he is captured by the Khmer Rouge.
 7.30 Spitting Image
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Breaking Away
 9.05 Matlock: "The Sisters". An old man is charged with murder of his wife who was actually killed by two distant relatives, the twin sisters.
 9.30 Weekend: local programme
 10.00 What A Country: "We are in the Muboto's". Muboto's plans to marry a rich girl interfere with his friendship with his colleagues. He is forced to choose between the two.
 10.30 Wise Guy. The Crime investigation department manages to plant an agent in a criminal gang. He wins the confidence of the gang's boss and plans to avenge his colleague's death.
 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
 2.30 World Today via Satellite
 3.30 Abtal Al Mu'laeb: cartoon serial
 4.00 News Summary
 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
 4.20 National varieties
 5.45 Open University
 6.30 News Summary
 6.55 Noor Al Islam, presented by Ahmed Abdul Qadar. Guests are Yousef Al Rifai and Sheikh Ali Al Qattan
 7.25 Nazrat Alal Alam documentary
 7.40 Security and Citizens
 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
 9.00 News in Arabic
 9.50 Special programme on National Day
 11.00 Daftar Al Ayam
 12.00 News Summary

KTV 2

- 12.05 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown
 6.00 Holy Quran
 6.10 Thundercats: "The Thundercutter." Cartoons
 6.30 Moon Jumper: "Riding For a Fall." Ted Masters arranges for a hunting race. Nicole takes part on her horse "Moon Jumper" but someone misleads the hounds.
 7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: "So Long, King Kong." A field study on the African gorilla.
 7.30 Married with Children
 8.00 News in English
 8.40 Moonlighting: "Los Dos Depestos."

Depesto's mother arrives from Mexico believing that she is needed to sort out the differences between her daughter and her lover. Starring: Bruce Willis, Cybil Shephard.
 9.30 Silk Road: "The Glory of Samarqand." This episode traces the history of Samarqand through centuries looking at its places of interest and its role in commercial activities between the East and the West.
 10.30 Feature film
 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

CINEMA TODAY

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Al Andalus
The Highest Honour | Fahsheel Open-air
Dard (Indian) | Granada
Tarzan New York Adventure |
| Al Salimiya
The Living Daylights | Fahsheel
Jalakam (Malayalam) | Sulaibikhat
Al Nimir Wa Al Ontha (Arabic) |
| Al Hamra
Zaman Hatim Wahan | Al Jahra
Carry on Screaming | Al Jleeb
Sarvakalasa (Malayalam) |
| Al Firdous
Shahinshah | Drive-In
Rajul Fi Owein Imra'a (Arabic) | Ahmadi Drive-In
Rage of Honour |

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Salmiya and Rumailhiya
 Al Rashid Pharmacy,
 Amman St., Rumailhiya.
 Fahsheel and Ahmadi
 Al Ithad Pharmacy
 Fahsheel, Makka St.
 Farwaniya
 Al Jazeera Pharmacy,
 Homoud Al Roudan Bldg.
 Jahra
 Al Khaid Pharmacy, opp.
 Jahra Co-op.
- Kuwait
 Al Jahra Pharmacy
 Fahad Al Salem St.
 Al Hakken Pharmacy
 Jaber Al Mubarak St.
 Hawalli and Nagra
 Al Fardous Pharmacy
 Beirut St. opp. Hawalli
 Governorate

WHAT'S ON

CINEMA

Czech Cinema
 "Introducing Czechoslovak Cinema" will be held from Feb 20 to 24. A selection of animated and feature films will be shown.

They are:
 Feb 20: Visit Prague (animated film); followed by feature "Last Greetings from the Planet Earth."
 Feb 21: Service (animated); and The Seller of Humour.
 Feb 22: The King and the Goblin (animated); and Hurry, He's Coming.

Feb 23: Mr. Pip's Trip (animated); Watch Out, the Rounds.
 Feb 24: Janko: The Pea in the Gym; Cuckoo in the Dark Forest. All films will be shown at 7.30 pm at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium. Children not allowed inside the auditorium. The festival has been organised by the Kuwait Cine Club.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
 "Do Not Disturb," an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

SOCIAL

Sur Sangeet Group
 A variety show featuring Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu songs and ghazals will be held on Friday, 6 pm, at the Ramada Al Salang Hotel.
Ladies Tea Party
 The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390; 5386297.
Kuwait Irish Society
 St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Kuwait Natural History Group
 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb 25, at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on Peru will be given by Ms Kathleen Scanlon.

SPORTS

Raft Race
 Raft Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available from the Messiah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Ladies Sports Club
 Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

Soccer Team
 A group of young Italians are organising a European Soccer team. If you are interested please contact Carlo on Tel: 2445120/11/2/3/4.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.03
Zuhur	12.02
Asr	3.15
Maghreb	5.41
Isha	6.57

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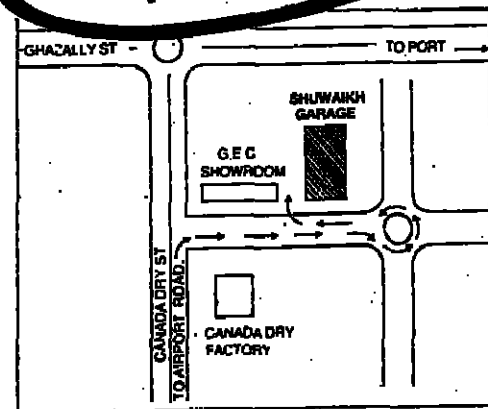
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EVERYBODY thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself — Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist (1828-1910).

OPINION

Israel is frightened of stone-throwing

WE have said that if the Palestinian Revolution is to achieve its goals, it must continue, and from all appearances, it is continuing.

Its leadership has announced itself in the name of the Unified Command. Whatever its leadership is, we respect it because it operates from inside the occupied territories. Brilliant speeches and numerous parties do not frighten the enemy. It has been proven beyond any doubt that Israel is afraid of the stones thrown by children — not by elegant banquets held in international capitals.

Israel is frightened by the stone-throwing children, who have continued to throw their stones for over 70 days. The people of the Arab world are pleased about the uprising and hope to see it intensify.

Of course, this does not mean that the work done outside of Palestine, when it is organised, will have no influence. On the contrary, if the Palestinians outside of Palestine were organised they could play an important role and accomplish a lot. For example, the Ship of Return could be ships. We could start the march of return and cross the borders, boarding planes going to occupied Palestine.

This would be better than bombing a US embassy in London, hijacking a Dutch aircraft from Madrid or killing someone at the Vienna Airport. These acts will not help the Palestinian cause and will, in fact, be used against it.

The Ship of Return is a symbol of progressive thinking which will contribute to evoking world sympathy in favour of the Palestinian cause. It will make the cause come alive in the foreign media, such as it is now, with the media reporting the news about the Palestinian uprising and sharply criticising Israel. This criticism has come from Israel's friends in the US, London, Paris and even Holland, who have a long history of kissing the feet of Israel.

The Ship of Return, if supported by other efforts like the ones we have mentioned, will certainly add to Israel's problems. These problems will also be compounded by the popularity of the Palestinian Unified Command, which now leads the uprising.

Whatever this leadership is, it has surfaced from the Palestinian struggle to direct the Palestinians who have stood up after waiting 40 years for Palestine to be returned to them through London airport, through a Jordanian-Palestinian dispute, through fighting in the Ain Al Helwa refugee camp in Lebanon.

Israel is now paying for its arrogance, thinking the Palestinian people had forgotten their cause, their land and their dignity. The price Israel must pay for this mistake might be very costly. It might even suffer what it suffered 2,000 years ago: if it was really in Palestine at that time, as it claims.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Harare aims for one-party state

By Tonic Sakake

HARARE, (Reuters): Zimbabwe's two biggest black political parties, which signed a unity pact last year, aim to achieve one-party rule by April 18, the country's eighth anniversary of independence.

The agreement is intended to end a long spell of political rivalry between the majority Shona-speaking members of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF), and the former opposition Patriotic Front-Zimbabwe African People's Union (PF-Zapu), which draws most of its support from the minority Ndebele tribe.

The Dec 22 accord has to be ratified next month by separate congresses of both parties, which fought together in the seven-year guerrilla war that led to independence in 1980.

Political analysts said President Robert Mugabe, who heads Zanu-PF, and PF-Zapu leader Joshua Nkomo, are determined to see it succeed, and both parties have launched a campaign to sell it to grassroots supporters at joint rallies organised mainly in western Matabeleland province, PF-Zapu's powerbase.

Analysts expect both congresses to approve the union which will set Zimbabwe, Africa's youngest nation, firmly on the path to Marxist-Leninist government, Mugabe's cherished goal since he came to power eight years ago.

One analyst in the Matabeleland capital, Bulawayo, told Reuters the majority in the province supported unity and, consequently, the proposed one-party state.

"They say unity has long been overdue," he added.

Another analyst said a faction of hard-core opponents to the unity agreement felt Nkomo had sold out to Zanu-PF, while a majority backed it, largely because he was behind it.

"However, there is a psy-

chological problem of adjusting to the name Zanu-PF. Perhaps it would have been different if a neutral name, like Patriotic Front, had been adopted for the new party," he said.

In negotiating the accord, Nkomo backed down only at the last minute on the issue of a name for the merged party. After a merger, Mugabe, in his capacity as party first secretary, will appoint some former PF-Zapu members to an enlarged Zanu-PF central committee and politburo.

Nkomo, now number three in the government, will become one of two Zanu-PF vice-presidents. Senior Political Affairs Minister Maurice Nyagumbo, who is also the Zanu-PF administration secretary, told reporters recently that Zimbabwe aimed to celebrate the eighth independence anniversary under one-party government.

But he ruled out negotiations to bring into the new party the Zimbabwe African National Union Party, led by exiled politician Ndabaningi Sithole, or the United African National Council, once headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

"It is absolutely impossible for the new-look Zanu-PF to accommodate Zanu and the UANC because they betrayed aspirations of Zimbabweans who mandated them to destroy the Smith regime," Nyagumbo declared.

The National Union and the National Council, both Shona-based, belonged to a bi-racial government led by Muzorewa, formed after a controversial agreement with Ian Smith, prime minister of the British colony of Rhodesia before it became independent Zimbabwe.

The white opposition Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe formerly led by Smith, lost its representation when the 20 reserved seats for the country's 100,000 white minority were abolished last September.

Israel parallels South Africa

Differences and similarities of two regimes

By Ned Temko

LONDON: In happier days, an Israeli spokesman I know used to like recalling the first time he met a South African diplomat. My friend was sitting in his office when the visitor burst in and declared, "Given the parallels between our countries' situation in the world, I thought we might compare notes on dealing with the news media."

"Get out of here!" the Israeli snapped. "And don't you ever compare a racist government like yours with the state of Israel!"

Yet these days, the eerie sameness of televised Palestinian unrest and (now censored) footage of violence in black South African townships makes the question inescapable: Just how are these two turbulent societies alike, and how aren't they?

As is often the case with such grand international analogies, the picture that emerges is complex. There are differences and similarities. Yet both help explain the present upheaval in Israel. And both suggest that managing this conflict is likely to become even more difficult for the Israeli government in the months ahead.

In one respect, the Israeli

official would be every bit as justified today as a few years ago in booting the South African visitor out of his office. It is true that both Israel and South Africa face nationalistic unrest at home. Both are bordered by states (Arab, or black African) sympathetic to the protesters. Both are often and acridly criticised by the world outside. And each has cooperated with the other, with South African gold fed discreetly to Israel, for instance, in a swap for Israeli arms, military material, and expertise.

Racism But Israeli society has never imposed the kind of codified racism embodied in South Africa's apartheid. Distinctly South African, too, is apartheid's founding premise that white "purity" must be protected from black pollution, and the attendant mania for classifying human beings by degrees of whiteness. For Israelis, many of whom survived death camps rooted in a not dissimilar ideology of racial purity, this distinction is understandably important.

The historical context of Israeli discrimination against Palestinian Arabs also differs from that of South Africa. The modern state of Israel arose, in

1948, on the battlefield: a victory of Zionist settlers over the assembled resistance of neighbouring Arab armies to a Jewish state — even if created along with an Arab one in a partitioned Palestine.

It was not until the late 1970s — after three further wars with surrounding Arab countries — that Israel's general state of war with the Arab world was denoted by the peace treaty with Egypt's President Anwar Sadat. In a real sense, Israel had reason to consider indigenous Palestinian Arabs an enemy within.

Benefits

Still, the course by which Israel chose to manage this relationship is in ways "South African". If Israel is not a racist state, it is an essentially theocratic one in which Jews (a category as closed to Palestinian Arabs, as whiteness is to South African blacks) are the senior partners. Israeli identity cards stipulate whether the holder is Jewish or Arab. A de facto residential apartheid has arisen in some areas.

Some official social benefits are linked to service in the Israeli military. Arabs (with the exception of the small Druze community that sided with Palestine's

Jews from the start) do not serve in the Army. Briefly and unsuccessfully, during the Camp David peace process, Israel even hoped to meet Palestinian national aspirations through an intricately limited "autonomy" plan reminiscent of South Africa's doomed attempt to manufacture black "homelands".

For the nearly 1.5 million Palestinians who live in Gaza and the West Bank — territories captured from Egypt and Jordan, respectively, in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — the equation is much starker. These Arabs, in contrast to those Palestinians who stayed put while hundreds of thousands fled in 1948, are not Israeli citizens at all. They cannot vote. Though they commute in huge numbers to work in Israeli cities, they are barred from living there. They can be held without trial for security offences. They can be "deported". Even elected West Bank mayors have in the past been summarily helicoptered out of the land of their birth.

Internationally, too, there are similarities between the crises Israel and South Africa now face at home. Israel, like South Africa, considers itself part of the community of Western

democratic nations. This implies considerable constraints on how harshly a government can deal with unrest.

How? For one thing, the founders of Israel were for the most part Europeans who have retained far closer ties with Europe than the Afrikaners have. For another, an Israeli state that lacks the gold and platinum, manganese and uranium, of South Africa is critically dependent on Western (principally, American) economic support.

The first element in this equation is changing. "Sephardic" Jews, of Mideast origin, now outnumber the "Ashkenazi" Europeans who founded the state. (Together, they outnumber Palestinians by about 6 to 4, even if one counts the West Bankers and Gazans).

By and large, the Sephardim advocate a tougher policy toward the urge of Palestinians to secure a state or at least equal national rights of their own. In Israel's inaptly named "national unity" coalition government, the Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir relies primarily on Sephardic votes.

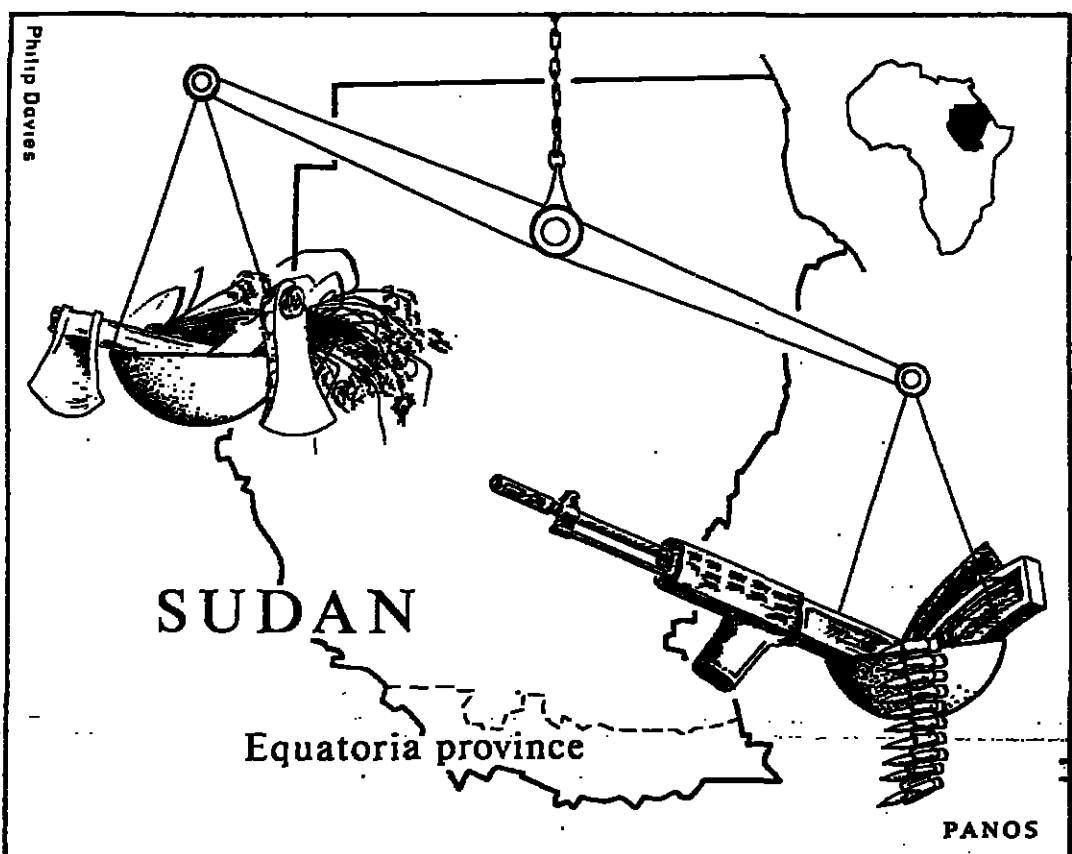
The Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is primarily Ashkenazi. Likud

favours muscle in handling the Palestinians, and insists that the West Bank is an inalienable part of the biblical "Land of Israel." Labour would like a long-term political settlement with the Palestinians, implying some form of compromise over the occupied territories.

The next Israeli elections are set for November at the latest. Barring a self-destructive Likud leadership struggle between Prime Minister Shamir and ex-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, the expectation is that Likud will emerge with a widened edge over Labour, perhaps sufficient to govern alone.

But the problem of Israel is that the second part of the equation governing its ties with the West remain unchanged.

Even as the government seeks to use muscle to quell Palestinian unrest, the political difficulties with such a policy are likely to grow — in the shape of pressure from a United States government that provides more than \$3 billion in annual military and economic aid to Israel, and whose voters are witnessing, almost nightly on TV, South African-style confrontations between stone-throwing youths and heavily armed army units. The Christian Science Monitor.



War in southern Sudan worsens famine further

By Alfred Logune Taban

LONDON: Thousands of people displaced by war and drought in southern Sudan are at risk of starvation. The war is disrupting efforts to provide relief and assistance, and in the latest assault 10 food aid trucks were commandeered "by mistake" by the Sudanese army. Meanwhile rebel groups are destroying roads and further disrupting food supplies.

The Sudanese government has claimed that a local commander made a "mistake" when he hijacked 10 lorries owned by the relief organisation Oxfam last month — and agreed to return them.

The brightly-painted yellow lorries formed part of a 30-strong fleet, worth some £400,000, being used by the Combined Agencies Relief Team (CART) to get supplies from Juba, the capital of Equatoria province, to more remote parts of southern Sudan, where the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is waging a bush war against what it terms the "minority Arab ruling clique" in Khartoum.

Protested In London, the UK's Minister, for Overseas Development, Chris Patten, had protested "in the strongest possible terms" to the Sudanese government over the Army's action, and an Oxfam spokesperson added that there could be "quite serious consequences for the relief programme". To date, seven of the lorries have been reported returned.

So one episode affecting the starving of southern Sudan may come to an end, but the long-term costs of the war and the effects — both immediate and future — on the welfare of the thousands of people already displaced by the conflict remain a matter of serious concern within and outside the country.

However, the SPLA is severely restricting the availability of food, primarily through disrupting transport. Food deliveries from outside the region are being particularly hampered.

SPLA forces have been mining roads and destroying bridges, making it difficult for relief aid from abroad to find its way to Juba or other areas.

donated by the EEC remained stranded at Aba, Eastern Zaire, for well over three months because a vital road bridge link in Sudan had been blown up by the SPLA.

Equatoria, Sudan's southernmost region, has suffered severely from a combination of drought and the continuing civil war, the latest round of which has been conducted in the area for over five years. Last April, when rain began to fall, crops were planted in three districts, Juba, Orit and Kapoeta — representing over half of Equatoria. But the rainfall turned out to be well below normal.

Lost By June 1987, the rain had stopped completely and the inhabitants of these districts lost all their crops. Many of them migrated to urban centres like Juba, where they are now living on handouts from voluntary aid organisations. There are over 100,000 such displaced people in Equatoria, about 40,000 of whom are in Juba.

The people of Equatoria used to have no qualms about food shortages because Yei, 160km to the west of Juba, acted as a granary and was always able to supply food in times of crop failure. However, this is no longer the case, as food had become part of the tactics of war. When Yei farmers began to plant in August last year, the SPLA appeared and planting was stopped.

Today, virtually no-one is planting crops in Yei district. Instead, many of the former residents have abandoned their fields and fled — just like those who were displaced because of the effects of the drought elsewhere in the region. In Yei town alone there are 8,000 displaced people who are being taken care of by the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

Deficit The director of agriculture in Juba's provincial government, Wesley Malawa Chicago, says Equatoria has lost 57 per cent of its food requirement, estimated to be 171,340 tonnes. Chicago claims that because of this food deficit, 900,000 people — about three quarters of the population of Equatoria — are now faced

with starvation.

He says the people urgently need 36,000 tonnes of dura (sorghum), 36,000 tonnes of maize, 24,000 tonnes of groundnuts, 46,000 tonnes of beans, 15,000 tonnes of rice, 6,750 tonnes of wheat flour, a million litres of edible oil and enough dry fish to feed 800,000 people, if widespread death through starvation is to be avoided. In Nimula and other areas in the eastern sector or Equatoria, several people have already starved to death.

In order to help meet the long-term food requirements in the rural areas, Chicago claims that 600,000 hoes, 120,000 axes, 130,000 pangas and 120,000 sickles will be needed by early 1988 if disaster in the next growing season is to be avoided.

He adds that seeds are also required, as all the available seeds have already been consumed as food. A minimum of 1,600 tonnes of maize, 800 tonnes of sorghum, 10,560 tonnes of groundnut and 1,600 tonnes of bean seeds are needed this February for distribution ready for the next planting season.

The provincial government has already declared Equatoria "hunger stricken" and hence a disaster area. However, the declaration has been nullified by the attitudes of the national government and the SPLA.

Exaggerated The national Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr Omer Nur el Deim, believes the figures given by the Equatoria government are exaggerated. The Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Salah Abdel Salaam, also says that the country has enough food, especially dura, and the major problem is one of transportation and distribution.

Because of SPLA activity, road journeys in Equatoria are now both hazardous and time consuming. Vehicles travel in convoys for safety, but attacks upon them are becoming more commonplace. Two lorries travelling in a convoy along the Juba-Yei road in December were blown up and the journey, which used to take a few hours, now takes at least four days as a result of the increasing number of assaults and deteriorating road conditions.

Merchant ships innocent victims of Gulf war

By Thomas O'Dwyer

DUBAI, (Reuters): Midnight banter with three on-duty colleagues aboard a Gulf supertanker ended for Carsten Andersen "when the whole world out there exploded."

The young Dane woke temporarily blinded by blood and wondering if he had been electrocuted by the light switch he had just touched.

He hadn't. The 23-year-old second officer of the Danish supertanker Kate Maersk was the latest innocent victim in the war by Iran and Iraq affecting non-combatant merchant ships. According to Gulf shipping experts, he was the victim of an errant Iraqi missile which hit the ship.

He was on his second Gulf trip after earlier college. His radio operator was killed and two colleagues badly wounded.

Attack

Andersen ended a moving interview with American CBS television from a Dubai hospital bed just 12 hours later, quietly hoping his family in Sonderborg would not see his battered face on their living-room television screen.

It is a hope shared too in living rooms, from Finland to the Philippines, where parents and other loved ones of civilian crew members watch newscasts from the distant Gulf.

Shipping executives say every fresh report of an attack sets telephones ringing in Gulf shipping offices. Same question, different name: "Please, is Hans — or

Ozal warns of belt-tightening

ANKARA, (Reuters): Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has warned that 1988 will be a year of self-sacrifice in Turkey but vowed to remain committed to economic liberalisation, the mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper reported yesterday.

"From the point of view of our debts, 1988 will be the heaviest year," Hurriyet quoted Ozal as telling members of his centre-right Motherland Party on Thursday.

"We have made a programme. We will tighten the belt. 1988 will be a year of self-practice," he said.

Ozal's office declined to comment on the report. Turkey needs to repay \$6.7 billion of debt this year and inflation is currently 60 per cent.

"Inflation must be reduced in the next couple of years... this can only be done by reducing consumption and increasing savings. We have no other remedy. We will do it," Ozal said.

Ozal said government intervention this month to support the price of the Turkish lira did not mean free market goals had been abandoned.

Second spy

WASHINGTON, Feb 19, (Reuters): US Justice Department officials concluded Israel almost certainly had a second American spy besides Jonathan Pollard, the Washington Post said today.

It said Pollard told investigators his Israeli controllers had shown him information including a highly sensitive index to US intelligence documents that American officials believe came from a second American spy, the newspaper said.

John, or Ali or Ernesto — all right?"

More and more, the seamen, their unions and their families are asking what their governments intend to do about it.

"I traded in and out of Vietnam at its worst and nobody deliberately hit a single merchant ship," said a West German captain in Dubai. "The Viet Cong would often have had good reason to attack my ship too. Iran and Iraq have started the dirtiest war in history."

In Mariners' Haunts amid the glittering hotels and bustle of Dubai's picturesque creek, anger is increasingly evident at international apathy to what is seen as a war that has lasted far too long. Helpless rage, until recently largely reserved for Iran's lightning gunboat raids on merchant ships, now focuses on the high casualty toll of neutral merchant seamen from Iraqi raids, more lethal in their outcome, if sometimes accidental in their execution.

Blunder

To Andersen, his colleagues, and loved ones of the dead radio operator, the fact the Kate Maersk was apparently hit because of an Iraqi blunder — the missile was intended for an Iranian target — is immaterial. But it does spread the danger wider in the waterway.

Twenty-four hours after the Kate Maersk was hit, an Iraqi Badger bomber fired two powerful Chinese C-601 missiles close to a US convoy of four reflagged US tankers as it veered away from warning flares fired by the USS Chandler, the Chandler's captain told reporters.

One missile passed the Chandler group by eight miles (13 kms), a close-enough encounter in modern military terms to raise again the spectre of the 37 sailors killed aboard the US warship Stark after an Iraqi missile mistake in 1987.

Many shippers scorn what they consider a one-sided Western obsession with the threat from revolutionary Iran, though they admit Western minesweepers cleared one big headache, Iranian mines, from the Gulf last summer.

"Iran is certainly a menace," the German captain growled. "But it was Iraq that killed 37 on the Stark and brought all the warships here (last July). Iraqi

pilots killed 14 seamen in six weeks this year.

"And now the Kate Maersk, and a near miss on the Chandler convoy," he added. "With friends like this, do I need enemies?"

Ships serving Arab Gulf states come under attack by Iran. This year Iran has hit 13 neutral ships but killed no seamen.

Misses Iraq attacks ships and terminals handling Iran's oil exports though it often misses. It has reported more than 20 attacks this year, nine of which have been independently confirmed. Fifteen seamen have died in the raids.

Most of the merchant seamen killed in the Gulf have been serving on ships chartered to carry Iran's oil from the dangerous north to the safer south of the Gulf for customer collection.

These ships fall outside the protective umbrella which Western navies have tried to raise over some merchant shipping in the Gulf. Many shippers, especially from countries not providing warship escorts, dismiss this bid at protection.

"Politicians gave the US military the same classic role here as when the meddled in Beirut — it's 'hold the low ground, defend yourself, and keep out the ruskies' (Russians)," a Norwegian officer said. "Nobody is protecting us."

US naval sources admit that apart from escorting US-flag tankers, much of their job is defending the warships. Themselves from Iranian and Iraqi attack. They do not protect neutral ships from attack.

Diplomats concede pressure is rising from the international community to act in concert to protect seamen and ships, and many European navies privately disagree with US opposition to a Soviet-proposed United Nations Gulf force.

"The Western fleets in the Gulf are now well coordinated," one French officer said. "There is no reason why more could not do the same under a blue (UN) flag."

Elliot Richardson, former US cabinet secretary and US negotiator at the UN Law of the Sea Conference, last month called for the world body to set up its first-ever maritime peace-keeping force — in the Gulf.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1437 Scotland's King James I is murdered in Scottish city of Perth
- 1570 — Lord Hunsdon defeats Leonard Dacre's rebel army, ending northern rebellion in England.
- 1631 — German Protestant princes form alliance with Sweden's King Gustavus II.
- 1789 — King Gustavus III introduces pact of unity and security in Sweden.
- 1833 — Russian ships enter Bosphorus on way to Constantinople to aid Turkey against Egypt.
- 1928 — Britain recognises independence of Trans-Jordan.
- 1942 — Japanese invade island of Bali in Dutch East Indies during World War II.
- 1969 — Disturbances break out in Nyasaland.
- 1962 — Astronaut John Glenn becomes first American to orbit earth.
- 1964 — Morocco and Algeria sign accord to end border conflict which resulted in troop clashes.
- 1967 — Indonesia's President Sukarno surrenders all executive power to General Suharto, keeping only the title of President.
- 1973 — Laos government and communist-led Pathet Lao agree on pact to end warfare.
- 1975 — Greek Cypriot government calls on United Nations to fix deadline for withdrawal of 40,000 Turkish troops from that island.
- 1986 — Widespread religious violence involving Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs flares in India, and city curfews are imposed in three states.

A rock 'n' roll great tells his story

By Richard Heller

TEENAGERS were invented during the 1950s. Chuck Berry's music was one of the things which created them — and made parents worry.

He wrote nearly 300 songs which are jammed with subversive energy. They celebrated dangerous, illicit things like dancing all night, ogling teenage girls at the record machine and driving to nowhere in an automobile.

As a schoolboy, listening to Chuck Berry anywhere made feel instantly and totally out of bounds.

After 30 years the energy and daring of these songs is intact. To prove it, try listening to You Can't Catch Me on your car stereo and see if you can keep below the speed limit. Or listen to Memphis and see if you can resist dialling Long Distance Information to ask for the number of Marie.

What sort of man could generate such a volume of exhilarating art? The wizard himself gives some answers in Chuck Berry: The Autobiography.

It is an absorbing account of a crowded life, although his prose is not as sharp as his lyrics. Besides music it contains a great deal of love, sex and money.

Chuck Berry was born 61 years ago in Goode Avenue, St. Louis. It was a lucky street name, and he made it immortal in the song which celebrates his life — Johnny B. Goode.

Poor

His family was poor, black, close-knit, respectable, Baptist and musical. At 18 he shocked them by serving a three-year prison sentence for auto theft. On release he played guitar in clubs, until a chance meeting with the great blues singer, Muddy Waters, set him on the way to a recording contract.

His first release, Maybeline, gatecrashed the Top Ten in 1955 to make him the first black 'n' roll star. Dozens of hits followed and became standards, including Carol, Sweet Little Sixteen, and No Particular Place To Go. He made the only Christmas record (Run Rudolph Run) which

Chuck Berry, one of rock 'n' roll's greatest exponents and author of such classics as 'Roll Over Beethoven' and 'Johnny B. Goode' now writes of his own triumphs over adversity, discrimination and denial.



Berry's early publicity photos were deliberately underexposed to deny his race.

deserves to be played rather than frised.

He influenced almost every rock performer to follow him — notably the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. There is nothing wrong with their cover versions of his songs — but beside the originals makes them sound sedate, something for grown-ups.

So what? Is this book more than another showbiz autobiography and nostalgia trip?

Yes, for two reasons. First, this is a portrait of an authentic, original, legendary genius. Second, it is a story of triumph over adversity and racism.

Berry was sustained, driven and possessed by music. He



Chuck Berry: after 30 years the energy and daring of his songs is still intact

created it continuously, even in prison (he served two prison terms as a star, once on a highly dubious charge of white slavery).

He had the artist's gift for storing and exploiting memories. He overheard a garage mechanic's words of frustration and turned them into Too Much Monkey Business. His own frustration as a child waiting for his sister to finish her piano practice became Roll Over Beethoven. On his way up to stardom — and after — Chuck Berry had to fight through discrimination and outright racism.

He was brought up in a neighbourhood where he never saw a white face close to until the firemen came to put out a fire. He was swindled repeatedly — and forced to share credit and royalties for Maybeline with two white people who had not written a note or a word.

Even as a star he was refused service in restaurants and 'white' hotels. He faced discrimination in business, and in the courtroom.

His early publicity photographs were underexposed to deny his race. They once lost him an engagement because the promoters had thought they were getting a white performer. On one occasion he was nearly lynched for talking to a white woman.

A racist society cannot stifle genius. But only a genius may hope for respect from it.

Tiffany slips to No. 2

Pet Shop Boys, Springfield top US charts

NEW YORK, (AP): What Have I Done To Deserve This by the Pet Shop Boys and Dusty Springfield leaped into the number one position among best selling single pop records in the United States. The disc was in fourth place a week ago.

Could've Been by Tiffany slipped to second spot after two weeks at the top of the Cash Box magazine pop singles chart. Eric Carmen's Hungry Eyes stayed on at third for the second week in a row.

Last week's number two hit, Need You Tonight by INXS, topped to sixth.

New to the top ten list this week were Patrick Swayze's She's Like The Wind, up from 11th to 7th, and Never Gonna Give You Up by Rick Astley, up from 14th to 10th.

Climbing fast up the top ten ladder was George Michael's Father Figure, up from 10th to 5th.

As for the country-and-western singles, Merle Haggard took over the top of the Cash Box magazine chart with Twinkle, Twinkle Lucky Star. Rosanne Cash was second with Tennessee Flat Top Box. I Won't Take Less Than Your Love by Tanya Tucker, with Paul Davis and Paul Overstreet, was third.



George Michael: climbing fast on the Top Ten ladder

Top Ten US

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (4) What Have I Done To Deserve This — The Pet Shop Boys and Dusty Springfield (FMI-Manhattan).
2. (1) Could've Been — Tiffany (RCA).
3. (3) Hungry Eyes — Eric Carmen (RCA).
4. (5) Seasons Change — Expose (Arista).
5. (10) Father Figure — George Michael (Columbia).
6. (2) Need You Tonight — INXS (Atlantic).

7. (11) She's Like The Wind — Patrick Swayze (RCA).
8. (8) Say You Will — Foreigner (Atlantic).
9. (9) Don't Shed A Tear — Paul Carrack (Chrysalis).
10. (14) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA).

The Ten Top Country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Twinkle, Twinkle Lucky Star — Merle Haggard (Epic).
2. (1) Tennessee Flat Top Box — Rosanne Cash (Columbia).
3. (5) I Won't Take Less Than Your Love — Tanya Tucker with Paul Davis and Paul Overstreet (Capitol).
4. (6) Oh What A Love — The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (Warner Brothers).
5. (3) One Step Forward — The Desert Rose Band (MCA-Curb).
6. (8) Face to face — Alabama (RCA).
7. (9) Too Gone Too Long — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
8. (7) Sure Thing — Foster and Lloyd (RCA).
9. (13) I'm Gonna Miss You Girl — Michael Martin Murphy (Warner Brothers).
10. (12) That's My Job — Conway Twitty (MCA).

Former pop star tells of group rivalry

Abba not on speaking terms

By Chrissy Iley

FORMER Abba star Agnetha Faltskog spoke recently about the bitterness which marred their success and led to her shunning other members of the group after they split up four years ago.

Agnetha said she had 'no interest' in talking to Benny Andersson and Annifrid Lyngstad and only speaks to the group's creator Bjorn Ulvass because they have two children.

The singer insisted she was 'much happier' on her own. 'I never had anything in common

with Benny and Frida. They were partying, cosmopolitan types and I'm a simple, homely Swedish girl.

'Our work was the only thing that kept us speaking. We never saw each other out of context. We led different lives.

'My priority was to stay in my homeland. It's the only place I could be happy. I'm not materialistic. I'd rather have peace of mind and a few thousand less. I also had my children's education to think of.'

Agnetha, who has radically altered her image to help a pop

comeback, said the four stars were often squabbling about how to do things.

'Strangely enough, tension eased when Bjorn and I divorced. I have to speak to him because we have two children. But I've absolutely no interest in talking to the others again.

'I couldn't wait to get out of that marriage. It was painful but we made the same mistake as so many people — we got married too young and changed to different people.

The group took the pop world by storm with hits like Waterloo, Mama Mia and

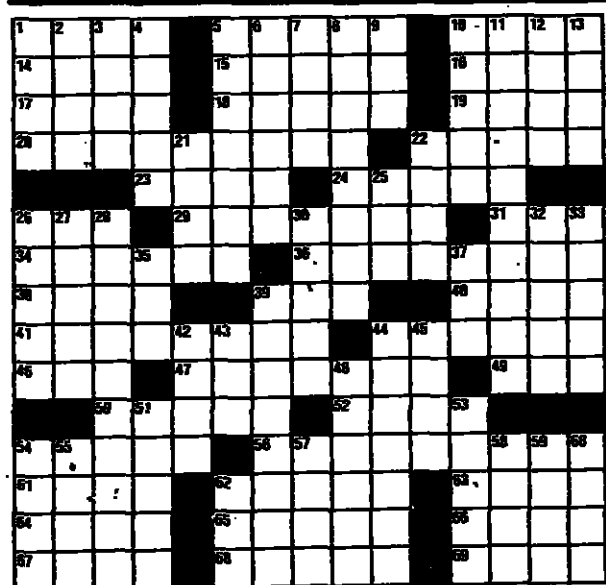


Former Abba star Agnetha Faltskog

Dancing Queen. At the height of their fame, they were individual multi-millionaires and had sold 150 million records by 1979.

Now, 38-year-old Agnetha has a problem living up to the image of her old publicity pictures as she relaunches her career with a solo single The Last Time.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Profound
 - 5 Discard a card
 - 10 USMC vessels
 - 14 Singular
 - 15 Blender button
 - 16 Longing
 - 17 Chas. Wick's ballwick
 - 18 Seaport in NW Germany
 - 19 Glasgow negatives
 - 20 Devil
 - 22 "— of God"
 - 23 Marquis de —
 - 24 Like school tablets
 - 26 SA resort, for short
 - 29 Kind of rhyme
 - 31 Macaw
 - 34 Conforming
 - 36 Set upon
 - 38 Roman statesman
 - 39 To the contrary
 - 40 Mexican lad
 - 41 Matriculated
 - 44 Armored tank
 - 46 Power agency
 - 47 "— Rex"
 - 49 Pasture parent
 - 50 Entertainer Rivera
 - 52 News
 - 54 Like E.T.
 - 56 California red wine
 - 61 Cloud
 - 62 Fresh air
 - 63 A Guthrie
 - 64 Served a winner
 - 65 Make adjustments
 - 66 Hindu deity
 - 67 Garden plots
 - 68 Ft.
 - 69 City on the Rhine
 - Down
 - 1 Thrash

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ACTS DRAB SCAM
SLAT AILED POSE
SAUR NOISE ANTE
ESPIED GENT SIIT
THE PARENT TRAP
STUD SILICA
ALL FIERS PERON
SONS OF THE DESERT
TOWER HOPE DES
APEXES ILET
RYAN'S DAUGHTER
SAM DOER DOUBLE
CROP OPINE JOIN
ALSO PAYER ANTA
NOTE LEGS SEEN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GIVE DECLARER A LOSING OPTION

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 5
♥ K J
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ A K J 5

WEST
♠ Q 10 4
♥ 8 6 4 3
♦ A 6 2
♣ 9 8 3

EAST
♠ 8 6 3
♥ 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 4
♣ Q 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K 9 7 2
♥ A Q
♦ K J 10 9 7
♣ 10 6

The bidding:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

When you have a choice of cards to play, it is right to table the one you are known to hold. It won't always make a difference, but on occasion it can prove devastating. Consider this hand.

No matter what happens in the next 11 months, we feel South's initial action qualifies for the "worst bid of the year" award. With 13 prime points and a distributional hand, there was no earthly reason

not to bid the hand naturally. Had he done so, a reasonable six diamond contract would have been reached rather than a poor six no trump.

West led his top club, and declarer had his work cut out for him. After forcing out the ace of diamonds he would have 10 top tricks, and the only place to look for two more was in spades. He won the first trick in dummy and led a diamond to the ten and ace. The club return was taken on the table, and after running four rounds of diamonds the moment of truth had arrived. Declarer led a spade and finessed the jack, and the first hurdle had been crossed when the finesse succeeded.

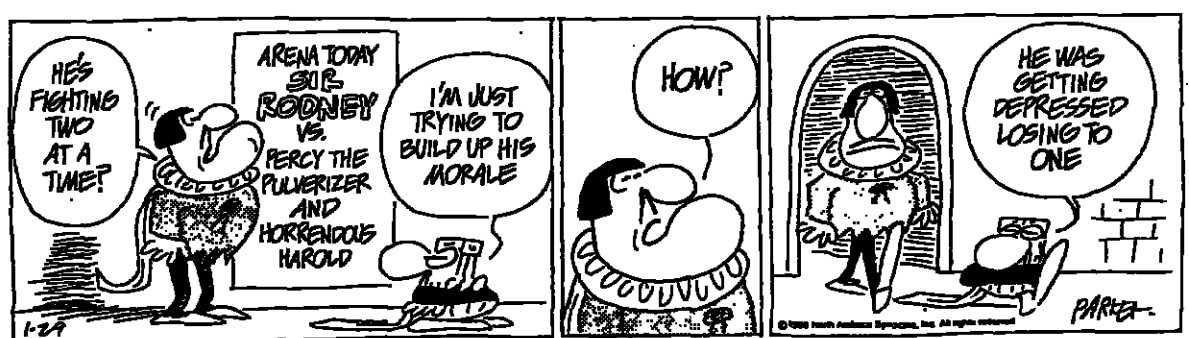
Declarer still needed more from the spade suit. He cashed the ace and West followed with the card he was known to hold, the queen. Now declarer had a choice of plays. He could either play for the 3-3 split or else finesse East for the ten. After some thought, he decided to treat West's queen as an honest card and finesse. The net result was that the defenders collected a spade and two club tricks in addition to the diamond ace, for down three!



"Good news and bad news. The good news is he won't be scratching your furniture anymore."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>The Moon's influence will help you to think for yourself. You should make sure of your facts before you state an opinion. Do not let your personal life take second place to work. Be reasonable.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You should avoid doing anything that might give rise to confusion. Make sure you observe speed limits even if some others do not. Do not do anything spiteful or hurtful. Be a little more tolerant.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You will feel a little more aggressive and should try to contain yourself. You should not allow secondary matters to take up too much of your time. Rely more on yourself than on others. Be generous.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You should avoid gambling with more than you can readily afford to lose. The better influence of Saturn, Uranus and Neptune will help you to plan for the future.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>A new idea will enable you to deal with a rather unusual problem. You have no reason to lose confidence in yourself. You will be able to do something to further your cultural interests. Be obliging.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>You will be able to take a good opportunity. You should not do anything that would upset your relationship with a relative of your partner's. Your personal situation will take a turn for the better.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>Mercury's better influence will help you to hold your own in a discussion only you must not let it turn into an argument. You should beware of eating or drinking more than you know you should. Take even more care when on the road.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will know what to do and how to go about it. Jupiter's more favourable influence will aid you in making up your mind. You will have to be just a little more patient. Be forgiving.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>You will find it easier to stay on good terms with your neighbours. Some friends of yours will be grateful to you for your advice. You should not expect to have all things your own way. Be cordial.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You will not feel at your best and should take more care of your health. A good opportunity could well pass you by because you did not recognise it in time. You should show a little more goodwill.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You should not allow yourself to be told what to do. You should however listen to and take good advice. Pay a little more attention to your health. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>An idea will help you to save money. You will have to make an effort to control a certain amount of nervousness. You should try to find a little more time to spend with your friends. Be tactful.</p>

Istanbul face-lift at cost of historic sites

By Vedat Erdamar

ISTANBUL, Turkey. (AP) Istanbul's dynamic mayor, Bedrettin Dalan, has been widely praised for his efforts to improve living conditions in this city of 7 million. But he is now criticised for allowing historic sites to be swept away in the process.

Dalan, 46, gained an international reputation for cleaning up the Bay of Golden Horn. The Sultans of the Ottoman Empire were said to have spent their pleasurable days on the banks of the beautiful bay that had turned into an open sewer in recent times.

His city hall bulldozers razed more than 6,000 warehouses, factories, slum buildings and shipyards built on the banks. In their place, he has created a green belt of playgrounds and public parks.

Recently the mayor began a face-lift of shores of the Bosphorus Strait. He has started construction of a modern sewerage system, launched plans to relocate more than 30,000 light industries now in the city centre and started building a tramway system that will carry half a million passengers daily.

Dalan has bought hydrofoils for fast sea travel to ease transportation, a major problem in this city straddling Asia and Europe and running 80 kilometres (48 miles) from one end to the other.

But artistic sensitivities and sometimes pocketbooks have been hurt by Dalan's ambitious projects.

Several wealthy Istanbul families were infuriated when he announced plans to build elevated highways to help ease traffic congestion along the Bosphorus. The roads cut close to 200-year-old wooden villas out the waterfront worth millions of dollars. They also spoil the beauty of the Bosphorus, critics claim.

The mayor was also attacked when he ordered the demolition of about 100 19th-century, Victorian-style buildings in the Beyoglu district to widen a main avenue and stop the traffic congestion.

Yucel Gursel, head of Turkey's architects' association, said it was a "savage assault" on the city to tear down the houses which were "a unique first example of European-style city buildings in Turkey."

Okan Ozyurt, a lawyer and spokesman for an environmentalists' group, called it "the worst looting and destruction in the city since the Crusaders overran Istanbul in 1204."

Responsibility
Dalan says he has the responsibility of serving residents as much as respecting and protecting history and that some old buildings may have to be sacrificed in the process.

"I am cutting off a diseased fingertip to save the whole body," he said about Beyoglu, once a fashionable district turned into a centre of porno shops and a hangout for drug addicts.

The cleanup will raise property values and encourage restoration of what remains, Dalan claims.

The latest controversy is over the construction of an 11-kilometre (7-mile) highway that will run from Samatya in the old city to the Bosphorus, linking Europe and Asia with a third bridge. In time, an underwater tunnel crossing the Bosphorus will complete the project, forming a ring road for vehicular traffic.

"These are short-term solutions. No final solution to the transportation problem is possible without a subway system," counters Celik Gulersoy, head of Turkey's touring and automobile club. He has been active in the restoration of historic sections of this city that was once the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires.

"If they insist on basing transportation on automobiles and highways, the whole city will have to be demolished as 100,000 new motor vehicles join the city traffic every year," Gulersoy said.

The city can afford neither the funds nor the time for a subway system, said Dalan in an interview with the Associated Press.

He estimated that a 200-kilometre (124-mile) subway system would cost 10 billion dollars and take as many as 100 years to build.

He said no historic buildings will be torn down for the highway as it will cross most of the old city by tunnels.

The Zabaleen, Cairo's rubbish collectors, are being asked to change their cleaning methods by using garbage-trucks and overalls.

Use trucks, not donkey-carts



An Egyptian garbageman on his way home driving his donkey-cart in the 'city of the dead' near Cairo after a day's round of the capital's rubbish. City authorities are trying to replace them with new and modern trucks.

By Bahgat Badie

CAIRO: The Cairo authorities are getting some of the Egyptian capital's garbage men to clean up their act by swapping their ramshackle, filthy donkey carts for trucks.

A drive to replace the wooden carts, used for generations to collect refuse in this city of 12 million people, started in January with a pilot project on the River Nile islands of Zamalek and Roda.

The garbage collectors, called 'Zabaleen', now picking up the rubbish from the back doors of apartments and villas are the same men as before.

But some now wear overalls instead of their usual rags as they tote baskets of refuse to new trucks, 20 of which have been bought by the city with US aid.

For the donkeys, it means a better deal. Some of the Zamalek 'Zabaleen' have sold their beasts, worth an average 500 pounds (230 dollars), to work in the countryside.

It is open to question, however, whether the new system will last and be extended beyond Roda and Zamalek, a wealthy suburb where many foreign diplomats live, to other areas.

Many Cairenes, accustomed to the sight and smell of the donkey carts, say they will never be replaced completely.

Some Zabaleen say the scheme won't work because people won't pay the extra costs.

"This project is a failure and the government wants to give the impression that it is successful," 38-year-old dustman Awad Madan told Reuters.

City officials say residents who refuse to pay the 2.75 pound (1.25 dollar) monthly fee for garbage collection will be fined five times that amount — as though they had just dumped their rubbish in the street.

Zabaleen themselves appear resistant to the change. "It's like putting on trousers for the first time after wearing a galabeya (a flowing robe) all your life," said Awad's brother, Said.

The project is one of several over the years to improve the lot of the Zabaleen, a semi-outcast group who depend on garbage for a living.

They recycle most of the rubbish they collect — keeping waste food to breed pigs and sending broken glass, tin and paper to factories.

"We make use of every single item found," one said.

Their open carts, pulled by one to three donkeys, trundle slowly down into the city each dawn from the rubbish dumps near the Mokattam hills, south-east of Cairo, and back again laden with raw garbage buzzing with flies.

It's one of the capital's colourful sights that many Egyptians are prepared to consign to history.

One member of parliament, praising the new pilot project, described the carts as an affront to the image of a proud, ancient city that boasts a brand new underground railway and is modernising its sewage, telephone and other public services.

Organisers of the schemes say it will not deprive the Zabaleen of their livelihood but will improve conditions. "They will continue to enjoy the same rights and do the same job they have been doing for generations," said Randa Fahmy, a coordinator of the project.

Environmental Quality International, the consultancy firm for which she works, has formed a company in which zabaleen can buy shares and which will eventually own the trucks.

Though the pilot project is limited, the ultimate aim is a modern corps of uniformed dustmen using trucks to pick up garbage packed in plastic bags rather than from overflowing dustbins.

It's a difficult vision to conjure up. Cairenes pay little heed to official exhortations to keep their city tidy, not to litter the footpaths and to put their rubbish in polythene bags.

Some Zabaleen in the Zamalek project have more immediate complaints. They say they haven't received overalls, there aren't enough trucks and the vehicles are badly designed.

By Jo Yun Jeung

SEOUL. (Reuters) Rising affluence has introduced the South Korean capital to one of the disadvantages of an advanced economy — the daily traffic jam.

The number of private cars registered in Seoul has doubled in five years and the jams hit office workers driving into town and weekenders escaping the city alike.

Although transport officials are confident a new underground railway can cope with the mass of visitors expected for the Olympic Games here in September, Seoul city officials are considering drastic measures to avoid massive jams during the games.

"Traffic conditions are getting worse and worse in Seoul," said one office worker. "I prefer coming to the office very early and staying there late to being jammed in the traffic in the rush hour."

On Sundays, families in bright new cars wait bumper to bumper at highway toll gates out of the city, breathing exhaust fumes while they wait to escape to the fresh air of the countryside. They return journey can be even worse.

The fast rise in car ownership is one result of the rapid growth of the South Korean economy in the past few years.

National per capita income shot up to 2,800 US in 1987 from about 2,050 in 1985, pushing the number of private cars registered in Seoul to 500,000 last year, according to Trans-

Seoul paying the price of affluence

port Ministry officials. This was a leap from 250,000 in 1983.

The government has tried to ease the traffic flow by enlarging main roads, making tunnels and building more bridges across the River Han which runs through this city of 10 million. But it has failed to solve the problem.

On the eve of traditional holidays such as New Year and Chusok, the autumn full moon festival, the roads are packed with small family cars pouring out of the cities.

Last October a quarter of the country's 42 million people returned to their home towns by road, rail or air for Chusok, bringing cities to a near-standstill and clogging railway stations and airports.

But worse is to come, according to one transport expert.

Yim Sung-Bin of the independent Korea Institute of Transportation Studies said in a telephone interview: "I expect the number of cars in South Korea to increase rapidly in the coming years, and the number of private cars in Seoul alone could exceed 2.5 million in 10 years."

"The level of car ownership is still low compared with the national income level. One reason is that South Korea has rather efficient public transport systems such as the bus and

subway."

Seoul's recently completed subway system is 116.6 km (72.4 miles) long but carries only about 17 per cent of daily passenger traffic, partly because more car owners here than in many other capitals drive to work.

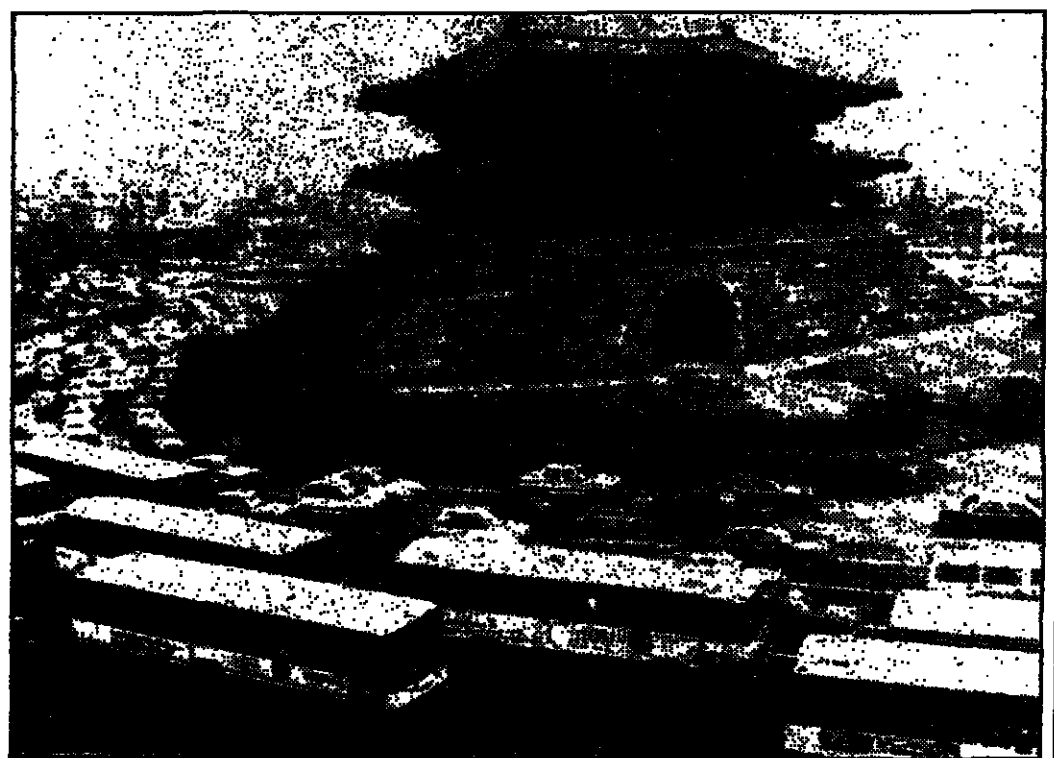
In the past year of political agitation, student riots were often responsible for heavy traffic jams in central Seoul.

"There they go again," grumbled one taxi driver late last year as riot police cordoned off streets in front of university buildings to keep back rioting students. "It means a big loss of earnings for me."

Another occasion when students caused major traffic snarls came last month when more than half a million of them converged on universities across the country to sit entrance examinations.

Panic-stricken examinees abandoned their vehicles and ran through the streets to their colleges, many followed by mothers on the verge of tears at the prospect that their offspring might be too late to take the exams.

Yim is confident the subway can cope for the Olympics. "It functioned perfectly at the 1986 Asian Games here, carrying people to and from the Games venue," he said.



In central Seoul economic affluence has introduced the country to one of the disadvantages of an advanced economy — the daily traffic jam.

By Frank Durham

AS I cruised the mean streets of east-side Los Angeles in one of those movie star black and white police cars, it could have been a scene from a thousand films or television series.

Tough-looking characters lounged in doorways and the graffiti-daubed buildings had an unmistakable air of menace.

But this was all very much for real. As real as burly Sergeant Ruben Sanchez sitting beside me. As real as the bullets in his .38 Smith and Wesson and the cartridges in the shotgun he carried.

We were a mobile arsenal, going to war in the crime zone that surrounded the fortress-like Hollenbeck police station. For this Mexican immigrant area is notorious for its street gangs, its violence and its tide of cocaine.

One mistake by Sergeant Sanchez and his fellow cops could well be terminal.

And, to underline that grim fact, a cop from Hollenbeck had been murdered in the very area we were patrolling, the Pico Eliso government housing project.

As our black and white cruised slowly through the streets, men melted cautiously into the background. But others waved to us cheerfully.

The sergeant waved casually in return and explained: "They're pleased to see us because they know we can protect them from the gangs."

Narrow

We were shadowing another black and white, crewed by two attractive girl cops, Nina del Vecchio and her rookie partner, Denise Ornelas.

In the Los Angeles police department, anything a man does in the line of duty, a girl is expected to do, too. And she does. Whatever the danger.

We saw the girls' car suddenly turn into a narrow alleyway and Sergeant Sanchez decided to give them some back-up. He explained: "This is a pretty dangerous area, with a lot of ex-convicts and many hardcore gang members."

"Nina knows the gang hot

spots in the area and checks on what the members are doing. She could have a problem here because there is a lot of narcotics activity in this alley. I'm sure that's what they've gone to investigate."

"See these kids here? They're all selling drugs. It's tough to catch 'em because they see us coming by in our black and whites all the time. But we have a number of undercover officers down here."

"So we just leave the drug sellers and pretend we don't know what's happening."

We caught sight of the girls' car at the end of the alley. Nina was on the street, talking earnestly to a man while her partner stood by watchfully.

The sergeant explained: "Nina is talking to him because he has just walked out of a known drug dealer's place."

Nina, subtly gathering the latest intelligence on the cocaine scene, spoke with the knowledge of an expert.

For she has worked undercover for the elite crime-busting Central Bureau Task Force, specialising in the worst the city can throw at them. Gangs and drugs were part of her daily life then, too.

That's what a cop comes to expect in this City of the Angels. And that's why they are happy to rely on the work of Mr Smith and Mr Wesson.

Dangerous

Nina, aged 27, told me later: "I couldn't police this area without my .38. It makes me feel very confident. I would use it without hesitation."

Would Nina, a girl with a Bachelor of Science degree from a comfortably-off family, shoot to kill if she had to? She said: "That wouldn't worry me at all. I've been in too many situations where somebody would like to kill me. This area can be dangerous."

Just how dangerous was spelled out by Sergeant Sanchez after the girls had left "drug dealer alley" to carry on their patrol. He explained: "See this graffiti on all the walls?"

"That is different gangs proclaiming their turf. One gang will claim the territory,

Playing a life and death drama with the LA law

It's as dramatic as a TV crime series when you cruise the mean streets in a 'black and white' with the Los Angeles cops. But this time the bullets, the violence and the gang wars are all for real.



Nina 'shakes down' a murder suspect on the streets of LA. The man turned out to be a flea-ridden drunk.

then a rival one will come over and cross it out. Then others will do the same . . .

"Just the other day, a rival gang came into the area. One member of it drove his car past a rival's house, not far from the police station, and shot him. I just heard this morning that the man died."

Sergeant Sanchez, born within a police whistle call of Hollenbeck station, wove expertly through the back streets.

Shouting

We turned a corner and fell neatly in behind Nina's car. Ruben decided to lighten the mood with a joke at the girls' expense.

On a corner a hobo-like figure was standing, waving his arms and shouting incoherently as Nina drove past. Ruben flicked the switch on his microphone and said: "Why don't you shake that guy down?"

Nina looked at the man, who looked as though his last wash was lost in the mists of time, and parried: "He just looks like an old drunk."

Ruben persisted, unashamedly pulling rank: "Gee! He looks like a murder suspect to me. He's got some sort of tag on his wrist. That means he's just out of jail or hospital. He's acting kind of bizarre. Stop and see what he's got to say."

The girls spun their car round and soon the hobo was spreadeagled in the approved manner against a nearby wall. Denise kept watch for passing trouble as Nina expertly ran her hands over the man. To her credit, she never flinched at the close proximity.

It turned out, as the sergeant had probably known all along, that the old man had recently been released from hospital.

As the girl cops drove off at a high rate of knots, Ruben

chuckled and said: "Nina's gone back to the station to wash the fleas off her hands. He was more cuckoo than anything else."

Half an hour or so later, we all gathered in a nearby Mexican restaurant for a meal break. It was the most respect I'd received from a waitress for many a long story.

Situation

Over her enchiladas, Nina told me: "About a month ago, I got shot at. We were driving down the street. Nice and quiet. Nothing odd. All of a sudden, here comes this little car."

"It's a convertible and we can see this guy inside with a shotgun at port arms. Bam! It happened so quickly and we really had to think fast."

"This was a very dangerous situation, even though he had missed that time. We called on

other units for help and took the man into custody. No problem."

Nina, a top athlete who has just won the woman's title The Toughest Cop Alive, keeps herself in street combat trim. Sometimes the effort more than pays off.

That day she was nursing a bruise 18 inches long on her left leg. Nina explained: "We got a call for help from a man whose son was mentally sick. It seemed fairly mild on the surface and the son was fine when we got there."

"We were asked to take him to a county facility because he was a danger to his family. Suddenly, the son turned on us. He swung at both myself and my partner."

"Then he grabbed a 60lb. motor-cycle frame and held it over his head. The man ran at us flailing this and could have killed us."

"Then I slipped and fell. It was touch and go. Luckily, I managed to get up as best I could. Then other officers arrived to help . . . and two of those were injured. In the end, it took six of us to take this guy into custody." Just five days later, Nina was in battle once again. This time she answered a call for help from some cops trying to make a drugs arrest.

Custody

She recalled: "They were having trouble taking somebody into custody. There were about six people there, trying to prevent the officers from arresting this guy."

"It was all happening halfway in and halfway out of a house. This is a very dangerous situation because you don't know what will happen if you have to go into the house."

"One man was trying to free the suspect, so we knocked him to the ground. I fell, too. I ended up in a rose bush, arresting the man."

The patrol resumed. A man who had the wrong colour number plate on his car was suspected of having stolen it. Cars converged from every direction and the suspect was shaken down in the street.

But it turned out that he had kept the plate from his old car,



Tough policewoman Nina del Vecchio points her .38 Smith and Wesson

for sentimental reasons. The incident ended with smiles all round.

The two black and whites prowled on, stopping traffic offenders. Searching for drugs. Deciding that a call to help chase a murder suspect was too far away.

Whenever one of the cops got out of the car, she took a baton with her. And, even when Nina was just writing a traffic ticket, Denise watched her back in case of trouble.

Ruben said approvingly: "We stress these safety tactics in our department, especially in respect of patrol operations."

"We've had too many officers hurt and killed because of sloppy tactics. We enjoy coming out here and serving the public. We enjoy the action on the streets. But the bottom line is you want to go home and eat your chicken."

We got a call to a supermarket, where a woman was accused of stealing some meat. She turned fearful as Denise handcuffed her before leading her through the store to the black and white.

Khanna plus Khanna spells money at the box office

Take two in the Rajesh - Dimple soap opera

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

FILM events are taking place at such a hectic pace that it is difficult even for the people in the business to keep track of them or follow all their complex implications.

The biggest surprise of them all was the coming together of Rajesh Khanna and Dimple Kapadia (Khanna). For many years it had been a case of Khanna versus Khanna and the matter nearly reached the divorce court. But in true filmy style, of tales like Do Kaliyan or Pyar Ke Do Pal, the two daughters seem to have brought them together, at least to work together for the present. But then there is more to it.

It's not just a question of no permanent friends and no permanent enemies in filmdom. It is the call of the commercial that makes "strange bed-fellows", as Shakespeare said. Well, Rajesh and Dimple have been old bed-fellows but they were torn asunder due to Rajesh's resolve of not allowing Dimple to work in films. She took the hard route of staying separately with her daughters, struggling to carve out her career again and at last achieving commercial success with some lucky hits. On the other hand Rajesh's fortunes went down. His long romance with Tina soured, while Dimple's affair with Sunny remained steady. The films made with Tina like Adhikar and Alag Alag were huge flops, and his career went downhill as a whole. Dimple on the other hand went high on the film horizon, with a great number of films on hand.

When Rajesh recently planned his own multi-star production, Jai Shiv Shankar as a last ditch effort to keep himself in the main stream, he had decided opt for Sujatha Mehta. He was still too proud and obstinate to ask Dimple, though she had shown signs of relenting. According to their close friends it was they who wanted the stars to re-unite and so they worked behind the scenes. Dimple was told about the role and the film. Like a good wife (or even ex-wife) she wanted to help a crumbling husband. Then Rajesh was told that Dimple was willing to work, if he called her over and had a

After a bitter and acrimonious separation, Rajesh Khanna and wife Dimple Kapadia are together again for the cameras at least. Our Bombay correspondent Firoze Rangoonwalla gives the inside story on this sensational casting.



The Khannas celebrate: will their professional relationship become a personal one?

chat, even if only on a professional level. He did that and so Sujatha was out and Dimple was in.

Victory

It was a victory of business over emotions. Rajesh also realises that a film starring both of them together for the first time and after such a long bitter quarrel will have instant box-office value for distributors as well as cine-goers. The film would command a much higher price than with any other star combination. It might make Rajesh prosperous as a producer and again acceptable

as an actor. Dimple on her part knows that since Rajesh's inheritance is going to the daughters, she will only be making an investment by acting almost free in the film.

Anyway, the project aroused great expectations and excitement in the industry, when it was launched with a formal "muhurat". All the three stars pairs were present, including Poonam, Jeetendra, Chunky and Sangeeta Birla. Actually, Rajesh and Dimple are not featuring as lovers. Rather his love for her goes

pathises with him. So, people who are expecting it to be another real-life enactment, like the way Amitabh, Jaya Bhaduri and Rekha did in "Sil-sila", will be in for a disappointment. At least, Rajesh and Dimple have not stopped to exhibiting their personal life for commercial gains. The film is being re-made from a Malayalam hit Vartha which has an entirely different story.

The title Jai Shiv Shankar is also not what it seems to be, namely a call to the Hindu gods or a chanting of holy words. It refers to the three heroes... Jai (Rajesh) who is an investigative journalist, Shiv (Jeetendra) a hired killer and Shankar (Chunky) a playboy. The whole film has a political undertone, as the honest newspaper editor fights against the wrong elements in authority. In turn they try to finish him off. The second hero reforms under his influence, the third is the brother of the main heroine. It ends in tragedy. In the Malayalam film, Mohanlal, Mamooty and Rehman played the roles. Director I.V. Sasi used many formulas. Since Sasi has lost the Hindi market due to flops, ("Anokha Rishta" with Rajesh-Sabihah), the present version is directed by S.A. Chandrasekhar, of "Kudrat Ka Kanoon".

Rajesh Khanna, despite his loss of star status, still commands respect and credit. Dozens of film folks turned up at the "muhurat" and party. The first suspicious shot was taken, not on Dimple, but on Poonam. Dimple arrived rather late and Jeetendra still later. Khanna was getting a dose of his own medicine as a producer. But he kept up a serious mood. No doubt he was



Rajesh Khanna: gone back on past resolutions

inwardly upset since he had planned the ceremony to be held in the morning. In his heyday as a superstar, his day used to begin in the afternoon. Now he has to wait for others.

But when Dimple at last came, he stepped over to receive her. She too changed from a nervous to a happy mood. As they sat down together, she fed him sweets. People clapped loudly and photographers clicked furiously. Both seemed happy at being together. Then Rajesh started shooting in a businesslike way from the first day itself. The first scene was filmed on the two, with Dimple sitting alone in an office when Rajesh walks in. They ask each other: "How are you keeping?" "We have met after years. It seems a whole era has passed away". It came quite close to real life, but the film itself will be different.

Many rumours have begun to float about the real reasons for the re-union. To some extent the two daughters have played a part in it. Rajesh used to call Twinkle for his earlier launchings, though he would not see Dimple's face. Once they were shooting by chance in the same studio. After waiting for two days, Dimple went to greet him but Rajesh only frowned and even drove out the lensman who clicked them. Then they happened to meet in Nairobi where Dimple was shooting and Rajesh came over to meet the kids. For the first time, the ice was broken in a strange land and the family spent some time together. From then on, it was repeatedly said that Rajesh wanted Dimple back in his (newly renovated) Ashirwad bungalow. She gave statements that she would act with him face to face but never as a guest star, and without any personal attachment.

Then they arrived at a friendly arrangement, where they would stay together for the sake of children but not as husband and wife. Dimple also kept talking of "her man" (Sunny), in whom she had full faith and understanding. And then came Rajesh's film, where Dimple vows to cooperate in a strictly professional sense alone. Rajesh has already swallowed his ego and gone back on his past resolutions by signing Dimple. He is being accused of doing this to benefit from her cash value as a star. He also wants to show a clean family image to his political party, Congress (I). Now what remains to be seen, as the film gets shot and released, is whether the professional relation turns into a personal one or not.



The happy star-studded cast of 'Jai' pose together for the camera.

Behind the Screen

The shameless girl Saaniya is being shunned by the industry people, after she openly declared her private affairs with stars and producers. Her pin-up photos don't help, either. She says she has become more famous after her confessions. But actually film folks keep away from her, fearing that she may one day expose their affairs too. So it is a double loss... of respect as well as roles.

Lata had restricted herself to singing one song a day for some years. But since she has become

a producer with "Lekin" she has doubled the quota with two recordings. As a singer she might have earned enough to last a life time. But as a producer she must earn extra money.

Giving strange competition to Lata is Padmini Kohlapure. After marriage, she has quit acting and started singing. She recorded a solo song, an exciting "lavani", for Devan Varma's Daana Paani. And she threatens to take up playback singing as a career. Will Lata

and Asha now suppress their own relative? ...

Prakash Mehra's Jadoogar which went on floors recently was actually started nine years ago. The stars then were Rajesh Khanna and Shatrughan Sinha. We admire Mehra's patience of living with the subject so long.

Sonu Walia had got only one role as a movie actress in "Aak-arshan". Then she began to woo Raj Sippy. And now she has a plum role in his "Mahadeva", as a good-hearted fallen woman. But unlike Saaniya, Sonu or Sonia (her real name) is keeping her affairs to herself. So producers like her all the more and bigger offers are coming her way.

Mithun and Sridevi are like ill-fated lovers who cannot come together except before the camera. The latest about them is that Sri's mother hovers around suspiciously, whenever they are shooting, ever since the heroine declared Mithun out of bounds on personal level. Even the make-up room is kept crowded with people. All that poor Mithun can do is to whisper sweet words, when they are singing, dancing, romancing in front of the camera as well as two dozen unit members.



Saaniya: losing respect as well as roles



Mithun and Sridevi: romance now restricted to the camera alone

ARAB TIMES MONTHLY

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 63

PRIZES

First Full House: KD 100
Second Full House: KD 60
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Top Line: KD 25
Four Corners: KD 25

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2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the

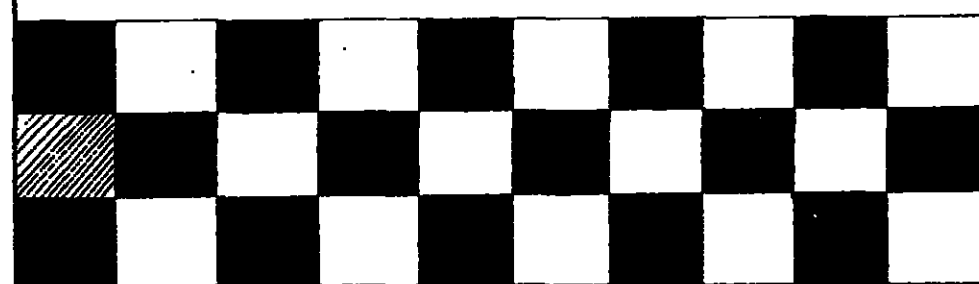
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4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
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No. 63

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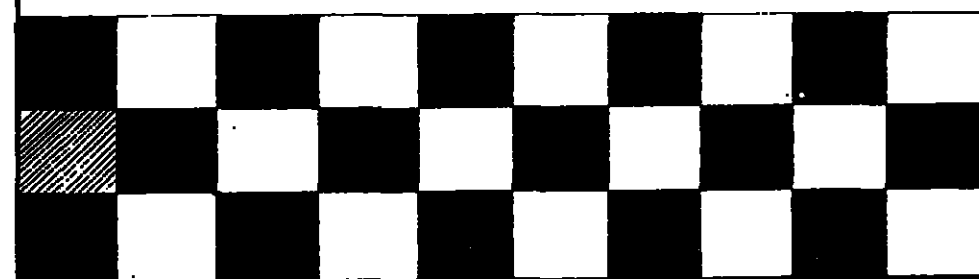
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Price increases to slow in the coming years, says Reagan

US economy poised for years of expansion

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, (Reuters): President Reagan said today the economy of the United States is poised to continue growing for years to come but it must cut its budget deficit and resist the "siren song" of trade protectionism.

His annual economic report to Congress painted a rosy picture of an economy that has grown 23 per cent and created 15 million new jobs in a record peacetime expansion of the past five years.

Incentives
Putting aside the worries of even his own advisers that October's stock market crash may still undermine the economy, Reagan promised that the good times would continue.

"By enhancing private incentives and opportunities for work, investment and entrepreneur-

ship, we have laid the ground work for growth far into the future," he said.

Nor Americans need worry about a resurgence of inflation. Reagan predicted that price increases would slow in the coming years.

Activity
"Economic growth itself will not lead to a spiral of worsening inflation. Only irresponsible economic policies would do that," he said.

One such policy would be a push for protectionist trade legislation, which Reagan said would be a tragic mistake now that America's huge trade gap was shrinking.

"Isolating US markets could only lead to a global downward spiral in trade and economic activity," he said.

Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt is running hard for the Democratic presidential nomination on the platform of a tough amendment he is sponsoring to a trade bill now going through Congress.

Although Reagan did not specifically refer to the Gephardt amendment, he said he would veto the trade bill if it was not free of harmful protectionist measures. Protectionism, he said, was a siren song.

Dwelling on his accomplishments, Reagan did not mention that national debt has increased under his stewardship to \$2.6 trillion from 900 billion in 1980 — a burden which many economists say will depress future living standards.

But he repeatedly stressed the need to reduce further the role of

government. "Although we have succeeded recently in slowing the growth of (federal) spending, and the deficit declined by \$71 billion in the last fiscal year, the deficit is still too large," he said.

The deficit fell to \$150 billion in fiscal 1987, which ended last September 30, and is expected to fall only a bit further this year to \$147 billion.

Reagan submitted a 1989 budget to Congress on Thursday, seeking \$1.1 trillion of spending, which envisages a deficit of \$130 billion. The deficit is seen shrinking to \$104 billion in 1990 and \$79 billion in 1991.

Resources
The government was still absorbing resources that could be put to better use by the private sector, but Reagan reiterated his opposition to tax increases as the

way to cut the deficit.

His comments were made in the introduction to an annual report to Congress by his Council of Economic Advisers, chaired by Beryl Sprinkel.

The report was also mostly upbeat but it sounded a note of caution about the impact of October's stock market crash.

It said this did remarkably little direct damage to the financial system but the implications for the economy were harder to gauge and might ultimately be more serious, requiring a careful policy to avoid an economic downturn.

"The stock market is a good, but not infallible, predictor of economic trends," the report said.

Partly because of the crash, the council in December scaled back

its forecast of economic growth this year to 2.4 per cent from 3.5 per cent, compared with 3.8 per cent in 1987.

Forecast

Briefing reporters this week, Sprinkel said he saw no reason to revise his forecast any further.

Sprinkel predicted a narrowing of the yawning US trade gap and said the build-up in foreign debt brought about by the record trade deficits of the Reagan years remained modest relative to US income and wealth.

The United States needs to devote only 0.5 per cent of its total output of goods and services to service its debts, Sprinkel said. He declared: "The current level of foreign indebtedness is not a dire threat to our future."

GIB takes 1987 loss to boost provisions

BAHRAIN, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Gulf International Bank (GIB), Bahrain's second largest offshore bank, said on Thursday it had taken a \$178.9 million 1987 loss in order to bolster loan loss provisions against Third World debt.

The bank also said it had decided to double its share capital to \$1.06 billion and would omit its dividend to shareholders for the year.

A statement issued by GIB said the bank had approved special provisions of \$220 million in addition to continuing its normal non-disclosed provisioning policy.

"The step was taken in line with other international banks for the provisions they have been making for possible losses on their Third World portfolios," GIB general manager Ghazi Abdul-Jawad told Reuters.

Move

The move, the first of its kind for GIB, comes in the wake of major loan loss provisions by its two main rivals on the island, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) and Arab Bank International EC.

Abdul-Jawad said GIB's operating profit had dropped steeply in 1987 to \$41.05 million from \$9.97 million during 1986.

"The drop can primarily be attributed to the fact that several countries have not paid in their interest to the bank," he said. Higher operating expenses and investment in new technology had also contributed to the fall, he added.

Abdul-Jawad said GIB would not take part in a Mexican debt scheme to swap the country's public sector loans at a discount for bonds because it would be taking a loss.

"The bonds are of no interest to us and I would be very surprised if I were to see other banks here participating in the deal," he said.

GIB's exposure to Latin American loans is estimated at \$864 million or about 18 per cent of its debt portfolio. Its seven shareholders are the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Italy to expand trade with Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 19, (Kuna): Italy wants to expand trade with Malaysia and towards this end intends to buy more raw materials from this country including timber and rubber, according to Italian Ambassador Stefano Alberto Canavesio today.

He said Italy also planned to purchase more Malaysian silk while its furniture manufacturers were keen on having joint ventures with local partners.

At present, Italy's timber imports were mainly from African countries but it now wanted to buy more Malaysian timber such as the Meranti because of their cheaper price, he told reporters after meeting with Terengganu state Chief Minister Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Connection

Canavesio also said Italian furniture manufacturers were interested in having joint ventures in the field with Malaysian partners and in this connection, the Italian government would organise a timber technology seminar in Malaysia in April.

Italian entrepreneurs were keen on setting up their enterprises in Malaysia because of its cheap labour and raw materials, he added.

Non-Opec oil output is rising

Opec must act if prices stay low: Algeria

LONDON, Feb. 19, Algeria's Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi said on Thursday that Opec would have to act if free market oil prices do not rebound from present depressed levels within two to three weeks.

Nabi, in an interview with Reuters, criticised excess production and price discounts by some Opec members and said it may be necessary to call a session of the Opec price committee — of Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Indonesia and Nigeria.

The panel is empowered to summon an emergency session of all 13 oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"We in Algeria think that if the actual situation (in spot markets) remains for two or three weeks that we have to meet."

Over supply has sent prices on the "spot" or non-contract market below \$16 a barrel, threatening Opec efforts to keep the prices at which it sells contract oil at \$18.

Production
The difference between the Opec-mandated official contract price of Algerian Saharan blend and Zazailine crudes and prices now quoted on spot markets is "more or less \$2.40", Nabi said.

"We can't ask our customers to accept this kind of gap."

Nabi said: "We are going to spring when demand will decrease but inventories are still too high."

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated inventories (stocks) of oil in the 24

industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as at January 1, 1988, at 454 million tonnes, 12 million more than a year earlier.

Oil has tended to flow from stocks while Opec has exceeded its own production ceiling, creating the oversupply which has depressed spot prices.

"The level of the 13 Opec countries' production needs to come down," Nabi said.

In January, industry sources estimated that Opec was pumping 16.7 million barrels per day (bpd), down from December's 18.35 million. But early February production is estimated to have risen slightly to around 17.0 million.

Nabi said: "Seventeen million bpd is (satisfactory) for winter demand, though this winter is not cold, but we need less than 17 million when summer comes... we have to decrease production... Opec has decided whether they are going to defend the price."

Explaining the organisation's problems, he went on: "Some countries will have to swing (tailoring output to match demand) if we want to achieve... around 16 million bpd. The problem is, who will swing?"

Role
Saudi Arabia, formerly Opec's swing producer, abandoned this role in 1985 and has said it will not re-adopt it.

At its last meeting in December, Opec set a production ceiling for 12 members, excluding Iraq.

of 15.06 million bpd for the first half of 1988.

Iraq, which refused to sign the pact as it was not awarded an output quota equal to that of its Gulf war enemy Iran, was not assigned a quota. It is producing around 2.4 million bpd.

Nabi was asked if output cuts were possible, since some Opec countries were offering discounts to maintain sales at official output quota levels.

He said discounts were "a very bad tactic. Their revenue will decrease. I am not interested in the number of barrels Algeria can sell but in revenue for our development."

According to industry sources, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq have all offered crude under varying discount formulas.

Resolution
"It is not serious to make political statements to defend \$18 and to second a resolution in Opec to be committed to the official price and then to make a discount. It is definitely killing the credibility of Opec," Nabi said.

Saudi Arabia was the prime mover at the Opec meeting last December to maintain the \$18 price.

Asked if he was referring to Saudi Arabia in connection with discounts, Nabi said: "No, I am referring to all the countries who are making discounts."

Spot market prices "will decrease if each country tries to achieve its quota with their discounts. The consequences are very clear, the price will go down

and down."

Meanwhile, non-Opec production has steadily risen over the past year despite pleas from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to exercise restraint, oil industry analysts said on Thursday.

"For the most part, major non-Opec producers are just giving lip service to cooperating with Opec. The overall increase in non-Opec output has offset the declines in Opec output, and I think this situation will continue," Dennis Winters, a data resources petroleum economist told Reuters.

Production
Total non-Opec production in 1986 averaged 37.238 million barrels per day (bpd), the US Department of Energy said. For the first nine months of 1987, non-Opec output averaged 37.414 million bpd, and for September 1987, the last month figures were available, non-Opec production was 37.663 million bpd. In 1980, total non-Opec output was 32.334 million bpd.

Opec representatives have consistently said cooperation of non-Opec producers is essential to stabilise world oil prices.

Supplies
Dillard Spriggs, economist with Petroleum Analysis Ltd., said non-Opec output is up about 500,000 to 600,000 bpd this year over last year, and the increase could fill any void left by Opec cutbacks.

"Non-Opec supplies have been going up over the last several years, and this is keeping

the stick to Opec," Spriggs said.

Analysts said the non-Opec response to Opec's request for cooperation has been spotty at best.

Opec output was estimated to be down in January to 16.6 million bpd, including Iraq. The self-imposed ceiling is 15.06 million bpd, excluding Iraq. Opec president Riwanu Lukman said Iraq's January output was around 2.15 million bpd.

Analysts said the only non-Opec country that has a definite plan of cutback cooperation in place is Norway, which has decreased its output rate by 7.5 per cent.

"But even Norway's cooperation came at a time when new producing fields were coming on line. Norway's total overall production is still up, although at a slower rate than it would have been," said Spriggs.

Output
Dow statistics show major producers—including the Soviet Union, Britain, Mexico, China, Norway, Brazil, Colombia, Syria, India, Malaysia, Oman and Angola—increased output in 1986 over 1985. Only the United States, Egypt and Australia experienced slight cutbacks over the same period.

All the countries had production increases mostly significant increases—in 1986 relative to 1980.

North Yemen is a new producer whose output is averaging 150,000 to 200,000 bpd, and could hit 300,000 bpd by the end of the year, analysts said.

Political unrest scares away investors

DHAKA, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Political unrest that threatens to erase any trace of economic growth in poverty-stricken Bangladesh is also scaring away investors, officials and industrialists said.

Industry officials said private investment in the fiscal year ending in June 1987 sunk to about five billion taka (\$162 million), almost half the previous year's figures.

They were unable to give statistics for the first half of this fiscal year but said investment would be "alarmingly lower" because of the country's uncertain political future.

Pressure

Twenty-one opposition parties launched strikes and demonstrations last November to force President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to resign and hand over power to a caretaker government to hold elections.

Ershad, who has ruled Bangladesh for nearly six years, has said he will not step down under pressure.

Repeated stoppages and worsening political conditions have severely affected industrial production and investment. A. S. Mahmud, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday.

"Bangladeshi industries are now in a shambles with more than 50 per cent running below a quarter of their capacity," Mahmud said.

"Most of the industries were born into ill health due to a lack of working capital. About 70 per cent of them have defaulted on loans from development financial institutions."

The government is planning to slash the proposed 50 billion taka (\$1.61 billion) public sector investment target in the 1988 annual development plan (ADP) by at least 10 per cent, officials

said, adding ADP spending cuts were forced by shortfalls in domestic resources and project aid.

The government has also postponed the second investors' forum, which was to be held in Dhaka this month to attract foreign investment, and a planned trip to encourage European nations to invest in joint venture projects but official statistics also show foreign investment in Bangladesh has risen to \$250 million in 1987 from \$0 million in 1972.

Experts
One industry official who declined to be identified said experts from the European Economic Community, which coordinated the First Investors' Forum, would visit Bangladesh soon to study the investment climate.

He said an Italian industrial mission last month agreed to invest \$140 million in nine private sector projects.

Moody's lower credit ratings for 8 US banks

NEW YORK, Feb. 19, (AP): A major Wall Street debt analyst reported that it had reduced its credit ratings for eight of the biggest US banking institutions because of a decline in its valuation of their foreign loans.

The action yesterday by Moody's Investor Services comes 15 days after another credit ratings service, Standard and Poor's Corp., lowered its estimate of the creditworthiness of five big banking companies.

Moody's also said it had confirmed its ratings for three banking companies and was reviewing its rating on debt from a 12th banking concern, European American Bank Corp.

Rate
The ratings help determine interest rate levels for companies borrowing money in credit

markets and apply to securities of various maturities. A lower rating often means a company may have to pay more interest to sell debt.

The downgrades affected about \$48 billion in outstanding debt, while the confirmations applied to about \$34.6 billion in debt, Moody's said.

Roger Arner, senior analyst at Moody's, said the action followed a review begun last December of loans that a dozen major banking companies and their subsidiaries had outstanding to Third World countries.

Moody's previously indicated that some Third World countries, including Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, were becoming economically less capable and politically less willing to continue servicing their debt as agreed.

Trade deficit drops

ISLAMABAD, February 19, (Xinhua): Pakistan's trade deficit has dropped by over one half from \$3.415 million to \$1.696 million during the last three years, according to official sources here today.

The Pakistan government has taken a series of measures to bring exports to the level of imports, the sources said. These included providing export credit and linking imports with exports especially with the countries with which Pakistan is having a deficit balance.

In the last three years, Pakistan had increased its exports to the European free trade association countries and strengthened its trade with the Soviet Union and East European countries.

The Minister of State for Commerce Begum Kulsom said efforts are underway to explore new markets for Pakistani export items such as cotton, cotton yarn, terry towels, rice, leather and leather goods.

World Business Summary

Japan to increase Third World aid

TOKYO, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Japan plans to boost its aid to developing countries, another step toward dispelling its image as a miser in the world economic community. The government said it was studying the possibility of increasing official annual aid to \$7.6 billion sooner than the 1990 date originally set for reaching that figure. Japan's official aid totalled \$3.8 billion in 1985. Senior officials, commenting on a government White Paper on the subject released on Thursday, said Japan was also considering beefing up a special three-year plan to contribute \$20 billion to developing countries. "Japan should provide a bigger flow of funds because \$20 billion is not enough," said Kuniyasu Takeda, head of the Economic Cooperation Division at the Ministry of International Trade. The government planned to cut interest rates on existing yen loans and act faster to disburse the \$20 billion, he told reporters. The annual White Paper on economic cooperation said "Japan should actively contribute to maintaining and improving the circulation of capital and goods." Overseas pressure on Japan to do more to help developing countries has increased as money has piled up from its trade surpluses.

Another ministry official said a cut in interest rates on development aid would be decided upon before a Toronto meeting in June of the seven leading industrial democracies.

Japan has already lowered interest rates on loans signed after January, 1987, by an average 0.6 per cent. But developing countries have complained that the rapid rise of the yen since then has substantially increased their repayment costs.

The government report, in summary, sees the need for more overall aid, more interest-free assistance, more Japanese investment in the developing world and more Japanese imports of manufactured goods from poor countries.

BP brings in profits in line with forecasts

LONDON, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Oil giant British Petroleum Co. Plc (BP) reported 1987 net income of more than £1.3 billion on Thursday. The company is Britain's biggest and is also the third largest oil company worldwide after Exxon Corp. of the United States and the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group. It reported 1987 net income of £1.39 billion on a so-called historic cost basis, which values its oil stocks on the basis of what they cost to acquire. That was about 70 per cent up on the corresponding figure for 1986 of £817 million—but analysts say the 1986 figure was massively distorted by a drop in crude oil prices. A different picture was obtained from valuing BP stocks on the alternative replacement cost method, based on the current market price for oil. Using this method, BP said its net income came out at £1.31 billion which worked out lower than the 1987 figure of £1.78 billion. Brokerage analysts say it is necessary to look at both sets of figures to judge the state of the business. They noted that the BP results were in line with earlier forecasts and said there were no surprises. BP shares put on just one pence (1.75 cents) to £2.60. A BP statement said the company would benefit in 1988 from a full year's output from its Alaska Endicott field, operated by US subsidiary Standard Oil. BP said 1987 had been one of the most significant years in its history.

In May, it acquired the 45 per cent of Standard Oil which it did not already own in October (p. 14). It also sold £1.45 billion from the sale of a residual government BP stake and new stock. In February, it made an offer for British Petroleum, a British firm with substantial North Sea oil and gas reserves—BP said on Thursday it now has 79.8 per cent of Britoil and that it is extending a £2.5 billion bid for the firm to February 24.

The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), an investment arm of the Kuwaiti government, has built up a stake of around 20 per cent in BP—picking up shares cheap after the big BP issue in October which coincided with the crash on world stock markets.

Indonesia tries to make life easier for oil companies

JAKARTA, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Energy Minister Subroto says he is trying to make life easier for oil companies operating in Indonesia by cutting red tape and simplifying licensing procedures. "Foreign contractors, for example, will be allowed to import industry equipment without having to have their proposals audited in advance," he told Indonesian reporters.

Speaking after the installation of new officials for the state-oil company Pertamina on Thursday, Subroto said the government was trying to speed up the way Pertamina supervised operations of the foreign oil companies.

There are 38 foreign oil companies operating in Indonesia, a giant oil-rich archipelago which sends half its crude exports to Japan. Subroto was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying Pertamina was supposed to approve spending and work plans in advance but in practice would do so after accounts were audited. Under the new procedures, foreign oil companies will only be required to report to Pertamina their plans for buying equipment from overseas and will no longer need advance approval. Subroto said the government was studying further ways of simplifying operations.

"Most complaints of foreign contractors concern licensing procedures and we will respond to their complaints positively to make the investment climate in the country more attractive," he said. Indonesia, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), expects to sign 10 new exploration and production contracts with foreign oil companies in 1988, the highest level since 1982, Indonesian officials said.

But it is concerned about declining levels of oil exploration, because new finds are not keeping pace with present extraction rates. US Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz said earlier this month that the investment climate appeared to have improved for oil companies in Indonesia over the past six months since the government started to smooth procedures. Subroto said the government had agreed to extend the contracts of certain oil companies on a selective basis but gave no details.

New taxes last measure to steady Turkish economy

ANKARA, Feb. 19, (Reuters): Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said yesterday no further measures to beat budget and inflation problems in Turkey were expected after new taxes proposed yesterday. Ozal told reporters a draft tax bill presented to parliament yesterday would raise 700 billion lira (\$600 million) for health and education.

The new taxes will add one million lira (\$900) to the cost of a new car, nine to 21 per cent to the cost of fuel and between 40 and 100 lira (\$30-90 cents) to a pack of cigarettes.

"No new economic measures are to be expected... the ones given at the moment are adequate," Ozal said. But bankers said more austerity moves may be introduced later this month to lower 60 per cent inflation, stabilise the currency and close a 2,465 billion lira (\$2.1 billion) budget deficit planned this year. The popular Gunaydin newspaper said Ozal told deputies from his centre-right Mithat Ispahani Party that measures might include withdrawing 200 billion lira (\$170 million) a week from circulation. The Turkish lira, meanwhile, continued to strengthen yesterday, improving to 1,310 lira to the dollar compared with 1,335 a week ago on the Istanbul bazaar free market.

Traders said the improvement was partly attributable to banks selling foreign currency to buy lira after interest rates and lira reserve requirements were raised on February 4.

"The (February 4) measures will soon start to show their effects. I recommend at this stage that nobody makes unnecessary and extreme speculations," Ozal said.

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LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBAY LFE	245/0
ALD LYONS	337/0
AMSTRAD	144/0
ARGYLL GP	188/0
ASDA MFI	166/0
A S FOODS	280/0
BAA PP	100/0
BTR	258/0
BAT INDS	428/4
BARCLAYS	466/0
BASS	793/0
BEAZER	188/0
BEECHAM	456/0
BET ORD	240/0
BICC PLC	320/0
BLUE ARRY	94/0
BLUE CIRC	422/0
BOC GP	398/0
BOOTS CO	216/0
BPB INDS	252/0
BR COMM	295/0
BR AIRWAY	155/0
BR AEROSP	352/0
BR GAS PP	252/2
B.P.NEV	73/0
BR TELCOM	238/0
BRITTOIL	495/0
BUNZL	167/0
BURMAN OL	478/0
BURTON	225/0
CABLEAIR	340/0
CADBURYS	247/0
COATS VVY	255/0
COIN UNI	308/0
COMS GOLD	815/0
COOKSON	533/0
COURTAULD	304/0
DALEY	287/0
DEE CP	179/0
DIXONS	189/0
ENG CHINA	388/0
ENTER OIL	295/4
FERRANTI	78/0
FISONS	244/0
GEN ACCID	825/0
GEN ELEC	149/0
GLAND	018/0
GRAMADA	332/0
GRABO	136/0
GRAND MET	462/0
GUS A	057/0
GUARD RYL	858/0
GUN	310/0
GUINNESS	276/0
HANSON	533/0
HANSON	135/0
HAWKER SID	485/0
HAYLEY	104/0
HAWTHORN	275/0

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

(Date Stocked)		
NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	365/0	365/0
APPL PLC	126/0	127/0
AARONSON	124/0	125/0
AAH INDG	272/0	271/0
ADDISON E	81/0	80/0
ADVEST GP	300/0	301/0
ALEX WRIK	174/0	173/0
ALL IR B	213/0	210/0
ALLIANCE	799/0	798/0
ALL COLL	126/0	125/0
ALL PLAN	52/0	53/0
AMARI PLC	153/4	153/0
AMC PLC	338/0	336/0
AMER TRUS	117/0	116/0
AMERSHAM	479/0	480/0
ANGIA TV	62/0	61/0
ANSCHER	48/0	48/0
U-APP HOL	309/0	308/0
APPEYARD	370/0	370/0
APRICOT	113/0	113/0
ARNDTONG	139/0	138/0
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International Bond Highlights

London — The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc is issuing a 125 mln stg Eurobond due March 24, 1998, paying 10-5/8 pct, lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Ltd said. (RCMD 1430)

London — Imperial Chemical Industries Plc is issuing a 75 mln stg Eurobond due March 23, 1993 paying 9-3/4 pct and priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager Warburg Securities said. (RCMF 1056)

Amsterdam — The 6.25 pct, 10-year loan for the Republic of Austria priced at 100.25 pct has been raised to 250 mln guilders from the original 200 mln announced yesterday, lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston Nederland NV said. (RTVP1177)

London — AB Electrolux is issuing a 75 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due March 29, 1991 paying 9-1/2 pct priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager J.P. Morgan Securities Ltd said. (RCMB 1227)

London — Helaba Luxembourg is issuing a 75 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due March 28, 1991 paying 9-1/2 pct and priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager CIBC Ltd said. (RCMI 1136)

Zurich owners of L.F. Rothschild holding inc's 100 mln Swiss franc, seven-year, 5-5/8 pct bond due 1993 May either call the bond is early or accept amendments to its net worth covenant proposed by Rothschild, lead manager Citicorp Investment Bank (Switzerland) said. (RCMK 1213)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-7/8 5/8	8-7/8 3/4	9-3/8 1/4
FFT 3.35/45	3.30/35	3.35/40
PAR 7-5/16 3/8	7-3/8 1/2	7-9/16 11/16
ZUR 1/8 3/8	1-1/8 1-3/8	1-1/2 1-3/4
BRX 4.85	6-3/16 5/16	6-3/16 5/16
AMS 10-10-1/2	10-3/4 11-1/4	10-7/8 11-3/8
RHS 4-1/8 4-3/8	4-0 4-1/8	4-0 4-1/8
TOK 3.3750 4375	3.8125 8750	UNQ
ECU 6.00 6.25	6.18 6.31	6.37 6.50

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4-9/16	5-1/16
3 months	4-11/16	5-1/8
6 months	4-3/4	5-1/4
1 year	4-13/16	5-1/16

BOMBAY

PR.	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	32.50	32.50	32.50	MODIALKALI	---	---	---
ACC	159	159	157.50	GRAYTON	104.50	105	103	ORAKY	22.50	22.25	22.50
AHMADY	---	---	---	GUPTRO	24	24	24.50	PRENATO	27.50	27.50	27
AHMADY400	---	---	---	GMALORON	89	89.50	88.50	RAYMOND CD	---	---	---
ANDHRA CEN	10	10	10.25	HINDALCO	122	122.50	123	RAYMONDWOOL	47	46	45
ANDHRA VLY	142.50	142.50	143.75	IND LAMPS	18.50	18	18.50	SPIC	32	32.50	32
BAJAJ AUTO	416.25	416.25	403.75	IND ORG	49.50	50	49	STD HILLS	237.50	240	230
BAR RAYON	155	155	155	INDRATON	178	178	176.25	STOMEDICAL	15	---	---
BOM DYING	124	125	125	INDROL	32	32.50	33	STEELTUBE	10	---	---
BSE INDEX	419.14	426.39	426.39	ITC	---	---	---	TATA PUR	177.50	177.50	177.50
CENTURYSPG	665	660	662.50	ITC 120	---	---	---	TATACHEN	63	62	63
COLGATE	195	193.75	195	JK 120	---	---	---	TATACHEN	73	72	74
DEPAKPERT	30.50	30.50	31.50	JKSWINTH	52.50	53	52.50	TATADIL	362.50	365	360
DHARMENET	---	---	---	L AND T	82.50	82	81.50	TELOD	---	---	---
FIACOR ORG	---	---	---	MAGNANAD	---	---	---	UDATPHOSP	---	---	---
GARMFOLY	77.50	77	78	NANDINDRA	56.50	56	56	VOLTAS	265	262.50	265

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	212.5	213.0
ALLIANZ VR	1362.0	1375.5
BADEMMEK	173.2	173.0
BASF	252.5	251.7
BAYER	256.5	254.0
BAYER HYP	341.5	331.5
BAYER VER	330.0	328.0
BBC	282.0	282.0
BHF	305.0	307.5
BHW	524.5	523.0
CHENIE-VER	0	120.0
COMMERZBK	216.5	216.5
CONTI GUMH	210.5	207.8
DAIMER BEN	664.5	657.5
DEUTSCH BK	418.0	418.0
OLM	296.0	296.0
DRESDNER B	236.5	236.2
FT BARCOCK	153.0	155.5
DZ INDEX	440.00	442.02
GOLDSCHWID	231.5	231.0
GUTENHOFF	0	0
HARPER	382.0	381.0
HOECHST AG	248.0	248.0
HOESCH	99.1	98.0
KORTEN	165.5	167.0
RUSSEL HLD	407.0	407.0
KALI SALZ	123.0	126.8
KARSTADT	398.0	399.0
KALFHOFF	362.5	359.0
KLOECK H	93.0	91.0
KLOECK U	0	67.5
LIWDE	572.0	580.0
LUFTANSAS	140.0	140.0
MAN	156.5	154.0
MANNESMAN	119.5	118.2
MERCEDES	526.0	526.5
METALLGES	210.0	210.5
NIXDORF PF	520.0	523.0
NORSK HYD	45.80	45.80
PHILIP KVM	630.0	626.0
PORSCH	440.0	425.0
PREUSSAG	119.8	116.5
PWA	189.0	189.0
REIN	216.8	215.0
REIN P	211.2	211.0
REINMETAL	240.5	240.5
SALAMANDER	262.0	257.0
SCHERING	315.5	308.0
SEL	315.5	308.0
SIEMENS	379.0	377.0
THYSEN	119.7	117.5
VARTA	233.0	232.0
VEBA	251.4	248.0
VEV	164.0	163.6
VOLKSWAGEN	237.5	235.0

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	13.60	13.60
CHEUNG K	6.45	6.45
CHINA GAS	15.50	15.50
CHINA L-P	17.90	17.90
CHINA MTR	16.50	16.50
COSMO PROP	4.30	4.30
EVERGO IND	3.00	3.00
FAR EAST C	.69	.69
G GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	8.00	8.00
H S INDEX	0	328.04
HANG LUNG	4.30	4.30
HANG SUNG	27.80	27.80
HAW PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	7.65	7.65
HK KOWLOON	5.85	5.85
HK LAND CO	7.10	7.10
HK SHAN BK	6.95	6.95
HK SHAN HT	3.72	3.72
HK TELE CO	7.30	7.30
HUTCH WHAM	7.10	7.10
IND EO PAC	6.80	6.80
JARDINE M	10.30	10.30
KOMLOON H	10.40	10.40
NEW WORLD	8.00	8.00
PAUL Y CON	1.56	1.56
REALTY DEV	5.30	5.30
S H K CO	1.56	1.56
S H K PROP	8.35	8.35
SINE DARY	1.34	1.34
STELUX MFG	5.00	5.00
SUIRE PAC	15.50	15.50
T V B CO	12.70	12.70
TAI CHEUNG	2.90	2.90
UNION BANK	1.62	1.62
WOCK HAD	0	7.25
WOCK HAI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	2.75	2.75

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3440	3420	MITSUB CP	1160	1180
AKAI ELEC	520	521	MITSUB EL	605	599
AKAI	957	950	MITSUB EST	2160	2130
ASAHI GAS	1900	1890	MITSUB HYV	605	600
ASAHI OPT	570	585	MITSUBI CO	760	746
BANK TOKYO	1520	1510	MITSUKOSHI	1660	1650
BRIDGESTON	1420	1370	MITSUBI EL	1220	1200
CANON	1050	1040	NICHICON	1320	1350
CASIO COMP	1250	1220	NIKON CHMT	795	777
CHUGAI PHG	0	1690	NIKKO SEC	1880	1820
CITIZEN W	588	591	NIP ELEC	2030	2000
D-ICI KAN	3190	3160	NIP KOKAM	304	299
DAI NIP IK	790	785	NIP STEEL	1190	1200
DAI NIP PT	2670	2620	NIP YUSEN	560	560
DAI NIP SC	1000	995	NIS MOTOR	825	806
DAI NIP TO	500	485	OLYMPUS	3720	3640
DAI NIP TO	812	800	OLYMPUS	1030	1010
DAIWA H	1770	1730	OLYMPUS	1170	1160
DAIWA SEC	2500	2420	PENTA OCM	850	858
EBRA HFG	835	841	PIONEER	2850	2800
EISAI	2470	2460	REINMAN	838	829
FUJITSU	1470	1410	RICOH	1230	1230
FUJI BANK	3380	3370	SANKYO	2170	2160
FUJI PHOTO	4050	3990	SANYO ELEC	510	519
FUJISAWA	2040	2050	SEIYU ST	2690	2640
FUJITA CP	728	720	SEIKI ST	1870	1820
HITACHI	1290	1250	SHARP	972	982
HONDA MOT	1460	1430	SHISEIDO	1730	1700
ISOTAN	1470	1490	SONY	4850	4800
ITO YOKADO	4300	4280	SUMITOMO	1080	1070
JAP SUN RY	951	951	TAISEI	930	920
JAPAN AIR	14200	14100	TAISHO MRM	1200	1200
JAPAN MET	425	432	TAKEDA CH	3090	3060
KAJIMA	1540	1530	TEIJIN	788	782
KANSAI EL	2800	2770	TKO NEW IX	31.90	31.82
KAO SOAP	1970	1940	TOKIO MEX	2030	2040
KAUSAKI H	312	310	TOKYO ELEC	1180	1200
KAUSAKI S	361	357	TOKYO GAS	1010	980
KIRIN BREW	2280	2280	TOKYO POWR	5550	5420
KONATSU	640	641	TORAY IND	782	776
KUBOTA LTD	570	575	TOSHIBA EL	760	755
KYOCERA	5610	5650	TOTO	2340	2300
MAKITA EL	1850	1880	TOYOTA MOT	2070	1970
MARUI	3190	3160	YAMADA	1050	1080
MATSUDA EI	2300	2300	YAMAICHI	1910	1830
MATSUDA EL	2280	2230	YAMAMOTO	4200	4230
MEIJI SEIK	922	930	YAMAZAKI	1510	1520

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS POST SEVENTH STRAIGHT GAIN
TOKYO, FEB 19 - SHARE PRICES BOUNDED HIGHER IN LATE TRADE ON BULLISH SENTIMENT AFTER A MIXED SHOWING MOST OF THE DAY, TO CHALK UP THE MARKET'S SEVENTH STRAIGHT GAIN, BROKERS SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX CLIMBED 98.05 POINTS, OR 0.39 PCT, TO CLOSE AT 24,773.41, ON THURSDAY IT GAINED 245.41.

ADVANCES LED DECLINES FOUR TO THREE IN TURNOVER OF ONE BILLION SHARES, THE HIGHEST SINCE JANUARY 7. THURSDAY'S VOLUME WAS 750 MLN SHARES.

"MARKET SENTIMENT HAS DECIDED WE ARE IN A BULL MARKET," SAID ONE FOREIGN BROKER. CASH-RICH INVESTMENT TRUSTS AND LIFE INSURANCE FIRMS BEGAN TO DEAL IN EARNEST, BROKERS SAID.

"WE SHOULD BREAK THE OLD RECORD OF 26,646.43 BY THE END OF MARCH," SAID A BROKER AT NIKKO SECURITIES. "THIS IS BASICALLY A ROTATIONAL MARKET. THERE IS NO MAJOR NEWS BUT SENTIMENT IS STRONG AND THE BIG PLAYERS ARE BACK CHASING ANY SMALL STORY FOR SHORT-TERM GAINS."

SECURITIES HOUSE, COMMUNICATIONS, BANK, CREDIT/LEASE, GAS, ELECTRONICS, AUTO, CONSTRUCTION, RETAIL, AND INSURERS ROSE.

"THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD EARNINGS RESULTS COMING OUT IN MARCH. THE JAPANESE ECONOMY LOOKS TO BE VERY STRONG," SAID A MANAGER AT TACHIBANA SECURITIES.

PHARMACEUTICAL SHARES FELL.

THE TACHIBANA MANAGER SAID THAT BIG FUND TRUSTS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RE-ENTER THE MARKET. HE SAID THEY HAD TAKEN LOSSES FOR CLIENTS AFTER OCTOBER 20'S CRASH AND FELT OBLIGED TO BOOST THEIR BOOKS BEFORE THEIR BOOKS CLOSE ON MARCH 31.

FOREIGNERS BOUGHT MORE THAN THEY SOLD, BROKERS SAID.

CHUJITSUYA ROSE 180 YEN TO 3,960, AFTER LAGGING BEHIND GAINS POSTED BY OTHER SUPERMARKETS OVER THE LAST WEEK, BROKERS SAID. SUPERMARKETS ROSE PARTLY BECAUSE OF SURGING CONSUMER SPENDING IN JAPAN AND PARTLY ON HOPES THAT PROMISED LIBERALISATION ON FARM IMPORTS WILL CHEAPEN FOOD AND BOOST THEIR PROFITS.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, FEB 19 - SHARE PRICES CLOSED HIGHER IN THE HALF TRADING DAY, BUT VOLUME WAS THIN AHEAD OF THE THREE-DAY HOLIDAY, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ENDED 26.29 POINTS HIGHER AT 2,328.04 WHILE THE BROADER BASED HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 17.02 POINTS TO 1,521.85. BUT TURNOVER WAS A MEAGRE 279.35 MLN H.K. DLRS, AGAINST 408.90 MLN ON MONDAY.

BROKERS SAID SENTIMENT HAD IMPROVED FOLLOWING A CONTINUED RALLY FOR THE LAST FIVE DAYS, AS THE HANG SENG INDEX GAINED A TOTAL OF 105 POINTS.

AMMAN

As of 17.2.88	OPNG	CLSG	JOR PAPER CARDBRGG	3.05	3.10
AL NISME MINERALS	0.79	0.79	JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.40	2.39
AL-NISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90	JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.26	1.24
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.36	1.36	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	2.15	2.05
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.98	1.96	JOR PRINTING/PACK.	3.00	3.65
ARAB BANK	120.0	119.0	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.68	0.69
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.50	4.45	JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.91	0.91
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48	JOR TIMBER PROCES.	0.17	0.17
ARAB INSURANCE	0.99	1.00	JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.31	1.30
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.	---	---	JOR WORSTED MILL	4.50	4.50
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.95	0.96	JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.14	7.14
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58	JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.90	5.43
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.09	2.10	JOR. INV. FIN. CORP.	1.89	1.87
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.36	0.38	JOR.KAM.CO.AGGR.	1.00	1.00
ARAB PHARMA/MAIF.	2.16	2.16	JORDAN BREWERY	3.65	3.65
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75	JORDAN DAIRY	1.02	1.02
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JORDAN GULF BAK	1.18	1.17
BANK OF JORDAN	16.40	16.40	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.93	0.95
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN GULF REAL	0.33	0.33
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	28.50	28.50	JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85	13.90
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.44	0.43	JORDAN ISLAMIC BHK	1.65	1.64
KD ALDADA DV/INV.	1.58	1.57	JORDAN KUWAIT BAK	1.84	1.83
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.45	JORDAN TANNING	1.95	1.92
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.63	0.62	LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.72	0.72
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.63	0.63	MA INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.60	0.60
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.30	1.30	MIDDLE EAST RES.	60.00	60.00
GENERAL MINING.	1.50	1.50	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60	0.60
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15	1.20	NAT.FIN.INVEST CO	1.50	1.50
IND./NATCH JEMCO	0.75	0.74	NAT/CABEL/HVSE/HF	1.00	1.02
INDSTR. DEVLPT BHK	1.30	1.29	NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.30	1.28
INDSTR./COM/FAK.	1.51	1.50	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.50	0.50
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	---	---	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.78	0.78
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	1.45	1.47	NATIONAL STEEL	2.70	2.69
INTERN.COM/INV	0.64	0.64	NLT SHIPPING LINE	0.91	0.88
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.97	0.98	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	PETRA BANK	2.05	2.05
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	3.50	3.20	PETRA ENTERPRISES	0.69	0.71
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.28	PETRO. & INS.	0.50	0.50
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.50	13.50	PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.72	0.69
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.06	1.05	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80	0.80
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.04	1.04	REAL ESTATE INV.	0.50	0.50
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05	SPINNING WEVING	0.94	0.94
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.48	1.47	THE HOUSING BANK	1.59	1.59
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.21	1.21	UNITED INSURANCE	2.50	2.50
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.05	1.04	UNIVERSAL CHN.IND	1.99	1.97
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50	UNIVERSAL INS.	0.74	0.74
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.80	1.74	WOOL INDUSTRIES	0.92	0.86
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.10	1.10

Democrats show lukewarm support

\$1.1t US budget could surpass deficit cut goals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19. (UPI) President Reagan, saying his \$1.1 trillion budget could surpass deficit reduction goals and reshape the government, is getting only lukewarm support from Democrats who blame him for the federal red ink.

In the words of representative Charles Schumer, Democrat-New York, a member of the House Budget Committee, "the good news is that the budget is not dead on arrival. The bad news is that parts of the budget are seriously ill and need major surgery."

Reagan, who delivered his fiscal 1989 spending plan to Capitol Hill on Thursday, said the plan meets the requirements of the deficit-cutting tax and spending

agreement negotiated between his advisers and congressional leaders last fall.

Restraint
"I am keeping my end of the bargain. I call upon the Congress to uphold its end," the President said in his budget message. "By exercising this measure of restraint and self-discipline, we can secure great benefits for the nation."

Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, described the White House package as a "good faith effort" that lays the groundwork for speedy legislative action.

"Now the Congress must begin its work in formulating and implementing its budget

priorities," agreed House Republican leader Robert Michel of Illinois.

But Democrats, while not dismissive, were not as receptive. "It's too bad this cooperation comes in the last year of (Reagan's) term rather than the first," remarked Senate Budget Committee chairman Lawton Chiles, Democrat-Florida. "Now we're still saddled with tremendous deficits... and I think the message still is whoever the new president is, he's going to have to work awfully quick in the first year to do something about the deficit because all the spare time has been used up."

Added representative Tony Coelho of California, assistant democratic leader of the House

of Representatives, "the administration submitted a budget today, which by and large attempts to fulfill year two of the (agreement with Congress). But it has stated that further deficit reduction will not occur on President Reagan's watch."

Problem
"He is leaving an enormous problem to the next administration and to the next generation. It is a sad closing chapter to the failed story of Reaganomics."

The plan, which outlines Reagan's priorities for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, is the last one that will be solely his own. His term ends less than four months later, and even though he will prepare a budget for fiscal 1990, it likely will be heavily revised by

his successor. According to calculations by the administration budget office, Reagan's plan would push the deficit down to \$129.5 billion, more than \$6 billion below the fiscal 1989 goal.

The president would achieve such savings partly by holding military spending authority at the \$299.5 billion level specified in the agreement with Congress and partly by reviving some of his pet proposals to sell government assets. In the past, Congress has ignored most of those so-called privatisation plans.

The budget also incorporates \$14 billion in new taxes ordered in legislation passed last fall as a result of the White House negotiations with Congress.

GCC citizens can buy shares in any member country

KUWAIT'S Finance Minister Jasssem Mohammed Al Khorafi and the accompanying delegation returned here on Wednesday after attending in Riyadh the 16th meeting of the financial and economic cooperation committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

In the Saudi capital, the Kuwaiti minister also participated in meetings of the board of directors of the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC).

Meanwhile, Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammed Aba Al Khail who presided over the financial and economic cooperation committee meetings, said on Wednesday that the participants endorsed the right of the GCC citizens to buy shares in companies that are set up in any GCC member state.

The GCC groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE.

Amendments
The Saudi minister also stated that the committee members, grouping GCC finance and economy ministers, also discussed a draft paper on protecting national industries submitted by the GCC secretariat, and certain amendments were introduced that will be discussed with industry ministers for final endorsement.

The issue of unifying customs measures to facilitate movement of goods among the GCC states was also tackled by the conference, Aba Al Khail said.

The Saudi official added that the ministers also discussed the current negotiations between the GCC and European Economic Community.

Italy seeks to exclude Japan, S. Korea from EEC trade offer

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19. (Reuters) Italy will seek next week to have Japan and South Korea excluded from a European Economic Community (EEC) proposals to end some import quotas, diplomats said today.

They said that at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers on Monday, Italy would argue that no concessions should be made to the two countries because of their huge trade surpluses with the 12-nation Community and the problems EEC exporters face there.

The ministers are due to approve an EEC proposal to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to end dozens of national restrictions on imports of goods ranging from vermouth to used tires.

The proposal, covering only a small fraction of EEC trade, is part of the so-called "rollback" section of the GATT's current Uruguay round, which aims to reduce trade restrictions.

Proposal
The EEC commission says in support of its proposal that it contains a condition that Japan and South Korea must take reciprocal action.

Italy, which is worried about its quotas on crockery, cutlery and similar goods, is supported by France but will need other allies to block the commission proposal, diplomats said.

Ministers are also due to approve agreements with Egypt and Turkey under which they would voluntarily restrain their textile exports to the Community.

Japan grants \$12.22m to Egypt

CAIRO, Feb. 19. (Reuters) Japan will grant Egypt \$12.22 million to help finance development projects, the Japanese embassy said today.

An embassy statement said \$7.81 million would finance the purchase of steel bars for a housing project for low income people.

Despite unfavourable circumstances

KAC hopes to improve its profits

By Khaled Ahmad

THE tourism and travel market is unstable and heading towards more complications because of continuing of reduced rates, according to the chairman and managing director of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), Ahmed Al Mishari.

He said the departure of eight international companies from the local market was an indication of the dangers facing the local travel market because of the continued violation of rates.

He told the Arab Times and Seyassah newspapers that KAC, the Civil Aviation Directorate and the Tourism and Travel Union, in cooperation with other companies operating in Kuwait, were making joint efforts to put an end to the present practices in the market and arrive at a just formula for prices, taking into consideration the interests of airline and passengers.

Change
Al Mishari said that KAC had proposed a slight change in the rates provided that other companies agreed to it. He added that some companies considered the change to be insufficient.

He said that KAC's operational results for the current fiscal year will be better than previous year and KAC will improve its profits despite the unfavourable circumstances through which the aviation and travel business were passing.



Ahmed Al Mishari

KAC took a number of measures to improve its operations and increase its competitiveness.

Improvement

Al Mishari said KAC had proposed the improvement of the computerised booking system to the Arab Aviation Union in order to protect the Arab markets and increase its competition with other groups.

He said the aviation business was witnessing the formation of groups and alliances, especially between Europe and South-East Asia to face the US computerised booking systems which threaten world markets.

He said that KAC closely followed up the complaints of passengers, added that 90 per cent of the problems were caused by passengers failing to confirm their reservations 72 hours before the flight. He said the KAC's computerised reservation system could be referred to in case of a problem.

Ownership
He hailed the project for establishing an Arab company to finance the purchase and hire of aircraft. The project is now with the Arab Fund and is likely to be discussed with various Arab investment and financial companies. He said a meeting would be held shortly to discuss the project.

He praised the idea of private sector ownership of Arab airlines, and said there were several successful international experiments in this.

But he stressed that such an idea was still too early for Arab airlines. He added that if such a decision was taken, a preparatory period of six to seven years must precede the selling of shares of Arab airlines to the private sector.

Prices
He said that ticket prices in the local market were 25 to 30 per cent less than the official rates. He said the clause concerning rates in the civil aviation agreement had been suspended because of a dispute on a reason-

able level of ticket prices.

He pointed out that the present prices were not fixed or stable and changed from time to time. He described this trend as risky.

He pointed out that if such a situation continued, then this, coupled with a drop in operations, would certainly lead to a big fall in airline returns, resulting in many companies withdrawing from the local market. In the end only a few companies will remain and this will lead to monopoly which is harmful.

Al Mishari denied that KAC was behind the moves to hike ticket prices in the local market. He said that KAC wanted to introduce a partial amendment in the prices.

Market
He stressed that KAC was only one of many companies operating in the local market and had only one vote, but aimed at organising the market in the interest of companies and passengers.

He said that KAC had submitted several proposals calling for a slight increase in prices, but other companies wanted a large increase. He said KAC was still trying to arrive at a reasonable rate with other companies in order to improve the present prices which were uneconomic for companies and could lead to the withdrawal of many, such as Alitalia, TWA, Malaysian Airline and Thai Airlines.

KPI to expand operations

LONDON, Feb. 19. (Kuna) The president of Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) Nader Sultan emphasised here yesterday that the organisation would continue an aggressive expansion policy aimed at increasing KPI's present volume in the downstream market.

Speaking at the annual institute of petroleum luncheon, Sultan said that the company would foresee a large expansion of its activities in future, placing more emphasis on geographic diversification beyond Europe.

Change
He made it clear that the company has outlined an ambitious plan through identifying opportunities in the Far Eastern markets as well as giving consideration to the US.

In his address to more than 250 representatives of the British oil industry as well as a number of foreign experts, Sultan pointed

out that any plans for further expansion would require an examination into acquiring additional manufacturing facilities.

He also referred to the necessity of a change in emphasis in order that KPI would expand its wide-range activities.

Later, the KPI president dwelt extensively on the history of the formation of the company almost eight years ago after it acquired the American group, Gulf oil, downstream assets in Europe.

He also said that "Kuwait Petroleum's plan for the downstream market" about the promising prospects building on the successful business experience.

On the limitations facing the company, Sultan mentioned among other things the importance of being very selective as well as the long-term production limits set by Opec for Kuwait.

He noted that the KPI forecast in its plan that it would be unable to produce above one million barrels per day.

This would limit the number "of eggs, so to speak, we would put in the downstream basket as opposed to the overall portfolio of oil exports from Kuwait."

Limitations
The senior Kuwaiti oil expert also made reference to the management limitations for the London-based company.

However, he was optimistic that KPI would learn from the experience of other companies who have moved into the same arena earlier.

He affirmed that "we are only eight-year old so we still have some energy and steam left."

The company entered the downstream market only five years ago and Sultan told his audience that he was confident that KPI's record will speak for itself after this very short period.

Metal prices hit record highs

LONDON, Feb. 19. (Reuters) Aluminium prices hit record highs in London today as dealers worried that supplies are too limited to meet immediate demand.

On the London Metal Exchange, prices rose nearly two per cent to £1,200 pounds a tonne, equal to £2,089 — the highest ever in pounds and an eight year high in dollars.

Supply
Dealers said inventories held in the exchange's warehouses across Europe have not been as low since April, 1981. But demand for aluminium, used in

products ranging from motors to food-wrapping, remains buoyant.

Some dealers believe there will be a short-term supply squeeze, and moved today to snap up as much aluminium as they could. But most trading was between professional dealers as opposed to producers or users.

And dealers said they were looking to technical signals — mainly tracking the volume and speed of orders in the market itself — for indications as to where prices headed.

One key signal came when aluminium prices hit £1,185

(\$2,074) this afternoon, dealers said.

That sent traders who had earlier promised to sell aluminium scrambling to buy, fearing that prices would keep climbing and hoping to limit losses on their sales contracts.

A broker's report suggesting that technical signals suggested aluminium could rise to \$2,450 a tonne circulated widely and also sparked buying, dealers said.

In addition, dealers noted the pound sterling record reflects the sharp decline in the dollar's value since 1985 — the dollar dropped 20 per cent against the pound just in 1987.

taking. Wall Street's lower close offset the positive effects of a stronger dollar. The All-Share Swiss index was down 3.4 at 817.4.

PARIS: Prices opened the main floor session firmer in active trading with foreign buying of blue chips pushing the market up.

LONDON: Prices reached their low point of the day around mid-session in continuing low turnover. At 1200 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 6.6 at 1,729.5.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were slightly lower in early trading after a late decline yesterday. The Dow 30 was down one point at 1,985.

Texaco plans to sell US refining operations to S. Arabia

LONDON, Feb. 19. (AP) Texaco Inc. plans to sell a stake of about 50 per cent in its extensive US Gulf coast refining operations to Saudi Arabia for more than \$1 billion yesterday, the International Herald Tribune reported yesterday.

A final agreement between Petromin, the Saudi Arabian oil holding arm, and Texaco is expected to be reached within a month, the Herald Tribune reported, quoting an unidentified Texaco executive and unidentified Arab oil executives attending an annual conference of the Institute of Petroleum in London.

Saudi Arabia has been considering taking a large stake in the refining and marketing arms of one of the US major oil companies which were once shareholders in the Arabian American Oil Co. or Aramco, oil industry officials said.

Those companies are Chevron Corp., Exxon Corp., Mobil Corp., and Texaco.

Over the past few months, all four companies have been given preferential access to Saudi Arabia's crude oil at market-related prices, which are below official prices for the oil.

Over the past year, Texaco has been the largest single buyer of Saudi crude oil, oil industry sources said.

Experts to discuss GCC petrochemicals

ABU DHABI, Feb. 19. (Kuna) The first GCC petrochemical marketing conference will be held in Abu Dhabi in the middle of March.

The conference will discuss working papers related to issues on petrochemical products such as shipping, bank financing, insurance and consumption affairs, sources at Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry told Kuna.

The conference aims at identifying the needs and requirements of petrochemical consumers and enhancing cooperation between producers of this industry, the sources added.

Dollar steady, gold eases

LONDON, Feb. 19. (Reuters) The dollar held steady again and share prices were hardly changed today as dealers said they still want clearer signs on prospects for the global economy.

For the fifth straight day, the dollar traded around 1.71 West German marks and just above 130 yen. It was quoted at around \$1.75 to the pound sterling. Gold eased to be fixed in London at \$443.45 an ounce, down \$3.80.

London's benchmark FTSE index of the value of 100 blue-chip British shares eased four points to open at 1,732.1 in quiet trading.

In Tokyo, the world's largest stock market, the Nikkei 225 share index rose 98.05 points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 24,773.41 — only about seven per cent below its pre-October crash peak.

Gains
The dollar, and share prices generally, have moved little after last Friday's sharp gains, when the United States reported a drop in its monthly trade deficit for December.

President Reagan's \$1.1-trillion federal budget got a mixed reception at the Senate Budget Committee today with some members praising it while

others said the figures were unrealistic.

"You've made some progress. It's a good effort," committee chairman Lawton Chiles, a Florida Democrat, told budget director James Miller.

But Chiles and Michigan Democrat Donald Riegle said the deficit, for the government's 1989 financial year which begins October 1 is likely to be higher than the \$129.5 billion estimated by the administration because a surplus in social security funds were used to reduce the deficit.

"Take out the social security surplus, and the deficit is closer to \$185 billion in 1989, even using our optimistic economic assumptions," Chiles said.

"We shouldn't fool anybody about what the President's request is," Riegle added.

Miller said he believed the figures were right and were based on correct economic forecasts which call for a growth rate of 2.4 per cent in the US economy this year.

"We have reason to believe our estimates are correct. Last year, the economy performed better than we expected," he said.

Many dealers and bankers said that drop should ease pres-

sure on the dollar. But some are not sure that the deficit is coming down for good.

"Since the fundamental imbalances have not been corrected, and the chances for improvement do not exist, there is a danger the downward trend of the dollar has not been broken," Swiss National Bank president Pierre Languetin said.

And a weak dollar could squeeze American sales of European and Asian companies still more. That worries stock market investors.

Expensive

"The dollar is a bit more expensive than we expected but no one dares sell in case the central banks come in or they talk it up again," a Paris dealer said.

Trading in almost all markets was very quiet.

In Frankfurt, the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share rose 0.51 points to open at 281.30. Amsterdam's CBS All Share index rose 0.2 points to open at 76.7 and then eased slightly.

The Paris bourse indicator slipped 0.30 per cent and the All Share Swiss index was down 0.5 points to 820.3.

Singapore shares firmed, but Sydney's All-Ordinaries index slipped 0.8 points to 1,243.0

Foreign buyers increasingly active in US takeover game

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. (AP) When foreign corporations and investors look at the United States these days, they see a big "for sale" sign.

The weak dollar, relatively cheap US stock prices and fears of trade protectionism have escalated the already heady pace of foreign acquisitions of US companies.

While some US businesses and politicians are worried about the impact of the invasion, many corporations are jumping to hook up with cash-rich foreign suitors.

"We're finding there's a lot of interest out there," said Ian P. Dunn, a managing partner in New York with the British investment banker Samuel Montagu Inc. "We're working on a number of deals at the moment."

Buyers

At the same time, hostile foreign takeovers are expected to be a minority, aside from several high-profile hostile battles already waged this year, foreign buyers mainly are expected to be business-oriented suitors interested in long-term benefits rather than quick profits.

Recent weeks have witnessed a mini-wave of foreign buyouts. In one of the biggest, Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and Tokyo-based Bridgestone Corp. announced a joint venture by which Bridgestone would acquire 75 per cent of Firestone's global tire business, the world's fifth-largest, for \$1 billion.

A flurry of smaller deals also

have surfaced, including: Bank of Tokyo Ltd.'s acquisition of Union Bank of Los Angeles for \$750 million from Britain's Standard Chartered Plc.

British publisher Pearson Plc's \$283 million purchase of the textbook publisher Addison-Wesley Publishing Co.

The \$36 million buyout of Anspach Grossman Portugal Inc., a corporate image consultant, by WPP Group Plc, the British marketing firm that last year acquired advertising giant J. Walter Thompson Co. for \$566 million.

Still being contested are two of the year's biggest proposals: Bat Industries Plc's hostile \$4.2 billion offer for Farmers Group Inc. and Toronto-based Campbell Corp.'s hostile \$5.4 billion bid for federated Department Stores Inc.

Rise

The 1988 buying spree had been expected following the rise of foreign buyouts in recent years. Foreign buyers — chiefly the British and Japanese — spent an estimated \$41.9 billion in acquiring 326 US companies in 1987, according to mergers and acquisitions magazine, compared with \$25.2 billion in 358 deals during 1986 and just 2.2 billion for 116 takeovers in 1983.

British buyers alone accounted for about \$30 billion in US acquisitions last year, such as British Petroleum Co.'s \$7.8 billion buyout of Standard Oil

Co., while the Japanese took in about \$6 billion worth of purchases, including Sony Corp.'s \$2 billion acquisition of CBS Inc.'s records business.

The speedup in foreign buyouts coincided with the sharp decline in the dollar's value that has increased foreign buying power in the United States during the past two years.

Values

The Japanese yen's value has risen by about 100 per cent against the dollar since early 1985, and the British pound by 64 per cent in that time.

Furthermore, although US stock prices have rebounded somewhat from their lows following October's market crash, they generally remain well below their peaks of last summer, keeping the market prices of many American businesses at cut-rate levels.

That presents an unique opportunity for foreign businesses to make long-desired strategic expansions into the United States. Bridgestone, for example, would become a major US competitor for the first time through its Firestone venture.

Such considerations also make it likely that hostile deals will be the exception rather than the rule.

"What the Japanese would like to establish here is a significant presence, a more efficient operation," said Shuehei Sato, head of US merchant banking of Japan's Sanwa Bank.

EEC predicts slow growth

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb. 19. (AP) The economic growth in the 12-nation European Economic Community will drop below 2 per cent this year and in 1989 as a result of the stocks market crisis last fall, the EEC said yesterday.

But, in an economic report to the member governments, the EEC executive commission said there will be no economic recession.

The commission said that the turmoil on the world's financial markets late last year has "increased the uncertainties in the world economy" and upset earlier economic predictions for a 2.5 per cent average growth in the Community.

EEC economists said this level of growth is too low to bring

about a reduction in the rate of unemployment, currently 11.5 per cent.

Peter Schmidhuber, the EEC Commissioner for Economic Affairs, told a news conference the analysis was based on the assumption the US dollar will stay stable at 1.60 German marks and 125 yen through the next two years.

Profound
Changes on the financial markets "would have profound implications" for the European economies and could offset any national efforts to stimulate growth, Schmidhuber said.

The commission said the slow growth will be caused largely by a decline in the growth of domestic demand and sluggish industrial investments.

Exports, the commission said, will remain flat in 1988, while imports will increase by about 7 per cent. Inflation, although up against 1987, will remain between 3 per cent and 5 per cent.

According to the report, virtually all EEC countries will experience a decline in economic growth compared with 1987.

The report said the Community should contribute to economic growth of its members states by stimulating cooperation in research and development, investing in large infrastructure projects and improving the regulatory climate.

But the report, which is intended to form a basis for the EEC's decision making, was criticised as "timid" by the commission's own staff.

Qatar sees \$1.7 billion budget deficit

DOHA, Feb. 19. (Reuters) The Gulf oil state of Qatar, its income hit by slack oil prices, said today its budget deficit for the next fiscal year would grow by nearly 12 per cent to 6.1 billion riyals (\$1.7 billion).

In a statement outlining the budget, approved by decree, Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani said revenue was set to decline by six per cent to 6.3 billion riyals (\$1.7 billion).

But the government would increase spending by 225 million riyals (\$60 million) to 12.4 billion riyals (\$3.4 billion) for the financial year starting on Thursday.

Qatar failed to announce a budget for 1986/87 after the sharp fall in world oil prices threw fiscal planning off course throughout the Gulf region.

Sheikh Abdulaziz did not say how this year's budget deficit would be financed but it is expected the shortfall will be covered from the state's reserves.

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KUWAIT City, Qibla near GPO, one room with water and electricity for bachelors only, to share with a family. Tel. 2401610.

SALMIYA, near the Indian School, fully furnished single room, for a married couple or working girls to share with a Pakistani family. Tel. Mrs. Rehana, 5634235, 6-7 pm.

KUWAIT City, Istiqlal Street, big rooms for a family or girls (Indian only). Reasonable rent. Tele. 2444127.

KUWAIT City, Al Mishan building, ground floor, door No 4, near Sheraton and very close to Roman Catholic Church, accommodation for bachelors. Contact: Al Othman Jewellery Shop, behind GPO.

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HONDA Accord, 1983 model, fully automatic with AC and sunroof, in very good condition. KD1100. Tel. Mohammed, 4896308.

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RED wallet containing money and passport No. D450004 in the name of Oscar Doroteo, Filipino. Lost in-between Sulabiya and Sulabikhat in a bus. Tel. Mr. Adolf, 4878512.

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Pat Cash praises Japanese racket

MILAN, Italy, Feb 19, (UPI). True-blue Aussie Pat Cash is singing the praises of Japanese technical wizardry these days after switching to the 'ultimate' tennis racket.

The Wimbledon winner has signed with Yonex of Japan, which recently lost women's star Martina Navratilova.

And Cash says the new weapon is already making a difference in his game.

"I realised that I could get the ultimate tennis racket," the 22-year-old Australian said at the \$490,000 Stella Artois Italian indoor championships this week. "I must have tried at least 200 or 300 rackets before I found the one I liked," he said. "I went through 27 batches of their rackets."

"When I found one I liked, then I asked the Japanese for a little more power and I got it as well."

"They really are technically brilliant. Feel and power—what more can you want out of a racket?"

Cash has put the graphite-silicone creation to good use this week in Milan, defeating Sweden's Niklas Pietrangeli and Spain's Sergio Casal in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals of a tournament where he's suffered first-round exits in his previous two appearances.

Cash first used the Yonex in Australia's winning Davis Cup series against Mexico two weeks ago after his contract with the American firm of Prince expired following the Australian Open.

"My coach Ian Barclay practically had to learn Japanese for this deal," Cash said. "Your racket is the most important piece of kit you've got. I think that's why Yonex was so keen to show that they can make the best in the world."

Changing any piece of equipment can be traumatic for a sportsman. Tennis, like ski racing, relies heavily on technology. What works for one player won't necessarily be right for another.

Cash said he came up lucky in making his switch. He credits the high-tech Japanese model with helping his serve.

"The more I play with it, the more I like it," he said. "I've only had more surprises using this racket so far."

American beats Norwegian in preliminary sprints race

HAYWARD, Wisconsin, Feb 19, (AP). Scott Oberbreckling of Wisconsin got a quick start yesterday and defeated Kristian Naess of Norway in the GTE Sprints, a preliminary to tomorrow's cross-country Birkbecker ski race.

Oberbreckling, 24, of Hubertus, was time at 33.17 seconds for the 200-metre race on a Hayward street after defeating Walter Thierstein of Switzerland and Hans Persson of Sweden in earlier heats.

He said he edged Naess because of a faster start.

Lynn Cecil, 26, of Minnesota covered the 200 metres in 38.19 seconds to win the women's competition, beating Mary Ostergren of Vermont.

It was the first year for the sprints. Sponsors predict at least 5,500 entries from 20 nations for the annual 55-kilometre Birkbecker, a Northern Wisconsin event that began 16 years ago and has become one of the world's biggest cross-country ski races.

Wales take on Scotland at Cardiff

France to meet Ireland in rugby

LONDON, Feb 19, (AP). Defending champion France, unrecognisable in its first two matches of the new campaign from the team that won the grand slam last year, attempts to refine its famed flair and zest tomorrow when it hosts Ireland in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship.

Wales, on the second leg of its bid to win the triple crown after a successful start to the season, takes on Scotland at Cardiff in the other half of a double-header.

The French, World Cup finalists in Australia, were unimpressive in their fortunate 10-9 victory over England and 23-12 defeat at Murrayfield against the Scots. To try and put things right, the selectors have wielded the axe and made five changes.

Out go established forwards Jean-Pierre Garnier, Jean Condam, Dominique Erhani and Eric Champ, who have earned 130 caps between them. Also dropped is flyhalf Jean-Patrick Lescaudrou.

BECKER TAKES REVENGE IN MILAN TOURNAMENT

Cash, Mecir, Noah advance into quarterfinals

MILAN, Italy, Feb 19, (Reuters). Wimbledon Champion Pat Cash and Miloslav Mecir moved easily into the quarterfinals of the Italian indoor tennis championships yesterday but Yannick Noah had to struggle hard to retain his concentration and his place.

Noah, seeded number five, needed three sets to get past upset-minded Alex Antonitsch of Austria 6-4 1-6 6-3.

Frustrated
The heavy-hitting Antonitsch, who earned a place in the tournament through the qualifying round, frustrated Noah with a strong serve and solid ground strokes.

Noah, the former French Open champion, had to come

back from a break down in the deciding set, a feat he achieved with some spectacular strokes, including a between-the-knees return of a lob followed by a dazzling backhand passing shot.

But Noah acknowledged he did not play well. "I was not concentrating enough," he said.

Benefit

Noah's next opponent will be Cash, who defeated Spain's Sergio Casal 6-3 7-6 after being 5-3 down in the second set.

A succession of backhand passing shots squared the set at 5-5 and Cash went on to win the tiebreaker which saw a couple of contested line calls.

The Australian, seeded number four, said he thought officials

would benefit from the greater use of "electronic eyes." "Someone wins or loses matches every week because of bad line calls. I would like to see electronic eyes used on every line," he said.

In another second-round match, third-seeded Mecir crushed Sweden's Jonas Svensson 6-4 6-0. Mecir, beaten by Boris Becker in last year's final, looked impressive as his steady baseline game wore down Svensson.

Revenge

West Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb beat compatriot Ricki Osterthun 7-6 1-6 7-5. Osterthun upset eighth-seeded Slobodan Zvezonovic on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, top seed Boris

Becker took his revenge on Magnus Gustafsson as he beat the Swede to advance to the quarterfinals.

Gustafsson beat Becker in November in the youth masters in Germany last November in three sets and the West German No. 1 has been itching to settle accounts ever since.

"I was looking for revenge. I had a bitter taste in my mouth and I wanted to make it sweeter," Becker said after the Wednesday match.

Becker, 20, will meet the winner of the second round match between France's Henri Leconte, seeded seventh, and Soviet No. 1 Andrei Chesnokov.

Second seed Jimmy Connors of the United States used his pun-

ishing return of serve and probing two-fisted backhand to sweep aside New Zealand's David Lewis 6-3, 6-3. Connors' victory sets up a second round clash with Eric Jelen of the West German No. 2. The fast "supreme" indoor carpet surface appears to suit Connors, whose low passing shots make life difficult for many opponents.

Intends
Connors, 35, said after the opening round match that he intends to play only 20 weeks of tennis this year.

"I've been designated to play only eight tournaments this year. I intend to stop after the (US) masters. I always thought people played too much tennis anyway," Connors said.



Cash:

Navratilova beats ailing Turnbull

OAKLAND, California, Feb 19, (UPI). Top-seeded Martina Navratilova needed only 41 minutes to beat ailing Wendy Turnbull, 6-2, 6-0, last night and reach the quarterfinals of the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of California.

Third-seeded Hana Mandlikova struggled to a 6-7 (12-10), 6-1, 6-1 victory over South Africa's Elina Reinach, unseeded Hu Na upset No. 8 Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and No. 6 Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union topped Camille Benjamin, Los Angeles, 6-3, 6-2, in other second-round matches.

Injury
Turnbull was treated yesterday afternoon for an eye injury. A tournament spokesman said Turnbull had a piece of metal the size of a pinhead removed from her right eye. She practiced in the afternoon and told tournament officials she would be able to play her evening match.

Turnbull took a 2-0 lead over Navratilova, who double-faulted twice in the second game, including game point. But Navratilova broke Turnbull in the third, and seventh games en route to winning the first set. The second set was over almost as quickly as it started with Turnbull losing 10 straight points in one stretch. She scored only four points on her own serve.

"I didn't know about the injury until she told me about it after the match," Navratilova said. "I'm glad I didn't. It might have been hard to concentrate."

In the quarterfinals
Navratilova plays Zvereva, defending champion and fourth-seeded Zina Garrison faces Hu Na. Mandlikova plays Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union and second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini meets Robin White.

Mandlikova struggled with



Mandlikova: struggles

her concentration throughout the opening set of her match. She looked uncomfortable at the service line and became annoyed with indecision on the part of a line judge.

"She's a tough player," Mandlikova said. "I went up and down in the first set, particularly in the tie-breaker."

Dropping the tie-breaker 12-10 jolted Mandlikova back into her game and she was never challenged, winning 6-1, 6-1.

Strategy
Mandlikova could not find her serve throughout her match with Hu. She double-faulted twice and missed 27 first serves in the loss.

The victory marked the first time Hu—who defeated to the United States from China in 1982—has defeated one of the world's top 20 players.

Zvereva's strategy to play to Benjamin's backhand throughout her match paid off as the American never challenged the Soviet Union's best player.

"I watched her (Benjamin) match with (Eva) Pfaff the other night," Zvereva said. "I decided the best way to play her was to play to her backhand."

He would have beaten

Grabb upsets Edberg in US indoor tennis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 19, (AP). Unseeded Jim Grabb pushed defending US indoor champion Stefan Edberg, the world's No. 3 tennis player, out of the \$415,000 tournament last night with a stunning 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Except for a three-game lapse in the second set in which Edberg rallied from a 5-1 deficit to 5-4, Grabb dominated the Swede, who was the tournament's top seed.

The stunning straight-set victory ended a personal three-match losing streak for Grabb against Edberg.

"I remember the first time I played him. My heart was racing," Grabb said.

Tough

"It's very tough for these (top-ranked) guys who have so much pressure on them to win every time," said Grabb, ranked 62nd in the world.

"This is one of those times that he didn't have his best game. I was in the right place at the right time," Grabb said. "I was kind of the catalyst that led to him having a bad night."

Edberg said he was ready for the match and that Grabb appeared unbeatable.

"The guy played out of his mind. He would have beaten

anybody today (Thursday)," Edberg said. "I didn't play well, but I didn't play badly either."

Grabb kept Edberg off balance with a scorching serve in the opening set.

The two went to deuce six times in the first game of the second set with Grabb breaking Edberg's serve when the Swede netted a backhand at the net.

Game back

Edberg held a 40-love edge in the fifth game of the second set, but Grabb came back to force deuce and then gain his second service break when Edberg netted a forehand.

Edberg held service in the seventh game to trail 5-2 and broke Grabb with a forehand return of service to pull to 5-3.

After Edberg held service to move within 5-4, Grabb gained match point when Edberg netted a service return, and closed out the match with an ace down the mid-court line.

Mikael Pernfors, the ninth seed, earned the right to meet Grabb earlier in the day by topping No. 8 Christo Van Rensburg, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 6-3.

Kevin Curren had 15 aces as he swept past Aaron Krickstein, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), and will meet No. 2 seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador. Gomez advanced with a 5-7, 6-3,

6-4 victory over No. 15 Johan Kriek.

Fourth-seeded Elliot Teltscher came down with the flu and withdrew from the tournament, allowing unseeded Robert Seguso to advance to the quarterfinals.

Seguso will meet No. 5 Amos Mansdorf, 6-2, 6-2 winner over India's Ramesh Krishnan, the tournament's 11th seed.

Charge
Third-seeded David Pate advanced with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Jim Fugh and will meet No. 6 Andre Agassi, who defeated No. 12 Paul Annacone 6-7 (10-12), 6-1, 6-4.

Pernfors said he never felt out of his match with Van Rensburg despite losing the first set and going down a service break in the second set.

"I felt I played very well," said Pernfors, who has slid to No. 39

in the world after a series of injuries which limited his court time.

"I felt comfortable even though I lost the (first) set. I still felt I could win the match. Physically, I feel stronger than ever," Pernfors said.

Pate overcame a sluggish start to advance to the quarterfinal round.

Charge
Pate, ranked 47th in the world, had his service broken three times by Pugh in the first set before taking charge with a strong serve-and-volley game.

"To do well, I have to stay aggressive and I gained a little more confidence as the match progressed," Pate said.

"In the third set, it was the first time in a long time that I could hit the ball and feel like it was going in," Pate said.

Britons clock year's best

GHEENT, Belgium, Feb 19, (Reuters). Britons Linford Christie and Tony Morrell clocked the year's best times for the 200 and 800 metres respectively on Wednesday while world 800 metres champion Billy Konchellah finished a humiliating last at the Ghent international indoor athletics meeting.

Christie set a British record of 20.55 seconds in the 200 metres while Morrell clocked 1:45.72 in the 800 metres.

Stormed
And Canada's Commonwealth high hurdles champion Mark McKoy stormed to victory over Britain's world silver medalist Jon Ridgeon in the 60 metres hurdles in 17.50 seconds, only 0.04 of a second outside American world champion Greg Foster's world record.

Konchellah stumbled to his second 800 defeat in less than a week after stepping out of the face after 500 metres in Lievin last Saturday.

This time he completed the distance, remaining with the pack

until the 600-metre mark but then fell back spectacularly to finish eighth and last, more than eight seconds behind Morrell.

"Compared with last week, I feel just great," Konchellah said. Konchellah said he had planned to return home to Kenya after his run in Lievin, but had later changed his mind.

Saudis win
RIYADH, Feb 19, (AP). The Saudi Arabian national soccer team, gearing up for the forthcoming Gulf Cup championship here, defeated Austria's leading club Rapid Vienna 1-0 in a friendly match here today.

The Austrians, also gearing for the soccer championship back home next month, displayed cohesiveness and assertiveness in their version of touch game. But they found the Saudi squad's defence a wee bit tougher to crack than Al-Ittihad, with whom they played on Wednesday in the Saudi Red Sea Port city of Jeddah.

Pistons score sixth straight win

NEW YORK, Feb 19, (AP). A roundup of National Basketball Association action yesterday:

Pistons 108, Supersonics 95

Vinnie Johnson scored 16 of his 27 points in the second quarter as Detroit beat Seattle 108-95 for its sixth straight victory and a half-game lead over the Atlanta Braves in the NBA's central division.

Johnson, who made 7 of 10 shots in the second quarter, scored the Pistons' first eight points of the period and had a hand in their final eight of the first half as Detroit took a 54-43 lead in the game in Pontiac, Michigan.

Knicks 108, Kings 104

Gerald Wilkins scored 18 of his season-high 39 points in the fourth quarter, including 12 points in the final 10 minutes, as the Knicks won their ninth straight game at home, 108-104, over the Sacramento Kings.

Sacramento, trailing 104-98 with 2:36 left, tied the game at 120 on two free throws by Otis Thorpe, who led the Kings with 30 points and 17 rebounds.

Pacers 88, Cavaliers 83

Steve Sipanovich drove around Brad Daugherty for the go-ahead basket with 1:11 left and the Pacers led the Cavaliers scoreless the rest of the way as Indiana beat Cleveland 88-83 for its sixth consecutive NBA victory.

After a timeout with 54 seconds remaining, Cleveland's Ron Harper missed a shot that Indiana rebounded. Indiana's Vern Fleming then missed two shots, but came up with a steal and was fouled with 10 seconds to go.

Lakers 111, Rockets 96
Byron Scott scored 27 points and Magic Johnson 26 as the Los Angeles Lakers romped past the Houston Rockets 111-96 for their seventh straight victory.

In the game in Houston, Scott and Johnson combined for 21 points in the first quarter to lead the Lakers to a 20-point edge.

Spurs 122, Suns 114

Alvin Robertson scored 31 points, Johnny Dawkins added 27 and the two triggered a decisive 13-0 fourth-quarter run as the San Antonio Spurs snapped a five-game NBA losing streak with a 122-114 victory over the slumping Phoenix Suns.

The Spurs, down 94-91 entering the fourth period and 104-101 with 5:48 remaining in the game, took a 114-104 lead with their 13 unanswered points in the game in Phoenix, Arizona.

Results of the games played on Wednesday night (only games scheduled):

Cavaliers	115	76ers	107
Mavericks	123	Bulls	108
Bucks	115	Supersonics	93
Nuggets	138	Celtics	125
Jazz	108	Suns	103
Trailblazers	110	Clippers	96

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1/9788	Chemicals (Anhydrous sodium chromate)	KD. 2/-	29.2.88 — 12.00 AM
1/9792	Tube fitting	KD. 2/-	29.2.88 — 12.00 AM
1/9805	U-bolt photocopyer heavy duty	KD. 2/-	29.2.88 — 12.00 AM

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1988 Winter Olympics

Medal standings

	C	S	B	T
Soviet Union	4	4	3	11
East Germany	3	2	1	6
Finland	2	0	1	3
Switzerland	1	1	1	3
Austria	1	1	0	2
Sweden	1	0	0	1
Netherlands	0	2	1	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	1	2
West Germany	0	1	0	1
France	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1
United States	0	0	1	1

SPORTS BRIEFS

Gulf soccer

KUWAIT has received an official Saudi invitation to take part in the ninth Gulf soccer tournament in Riyadh next month.

Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee and President of Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Thursday night received the letter of invitation from the President of Saudi Football Association, Prince Faisal Bin Fahd. The tournament starts on March 2nd through 25th.

Football tourney

THE fifth seven-a-side football tournament organised by the Varca Sporting Centre will take place on Feb 25 at the Al Soor grounds. Matches will begin at 7 am.

For entry forms and details contact Thomas Fernandes, tel 4835488 ext 204.

West German wins

MOUNT ALLAN, Alberta, Feb 19, (AP): Marina Kiehl of West Germany outdueled some of skiing's better-known stars to win the gold medal in the women's downhill at the Winter Olympics today.

Kiehl, starting eighth in the event, delayed one day by high winds, toured the 2,238-metre course in 1 minute, 25.86 seconds to take West Germany's first gold and second medal overall of the Games.

Course record

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 19, (AP): World champions Joerg Hoffmann and Jochen Pletzsch beat the course record by nearly a second today in the first of two runs in the men's luge doubles as East Germany continued to dominate the Olympic luge events.

Hoffmann and Pletzsch, the bronze medalists in the 1984 Games at Sarajevo, sledged down the 1,368-metre (4,104-foot) course in 45.786 seconds, followed closely by teammates Stefan Krause and Jan Behrendt at 45.886.

The course record of 46.545 seconds, set last month by Canadians Garth and Ray Imeson, was beaten by 13 of the 18 competing teams.

Fifa rejects

ZURICH, Feb 19, (Reuters): A Fifa spokesman rejected today French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's claim that France would hold the 1998 World Cup and said a decision would not be taken until 1992.

Guido Tononi, spokesman for the International Football Federation (Fifa) based here, told Reuters: "The decision will be taken in 1992 by the executive committee."

Yesterday Chirac said France had won the right to stage the Cup during negotiations with Fifa President Joao Havelange.

Player leads

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 19, (AP): Gary Player, coming off a victory in the PGA Senior Championship, leads a field of 72 golfers into the \$350,000 Suncoast Classic today at Tampa Palms country club.

The 54-hole tournament for players 50 years of age and older will feature 26 of the top 28 money winners from last season, including Chi Chi Rodriguez, Al Geiberger, Miller Barber and Arnold Palmer.

Ferrari celebrates

MARANELLO, Italy, Feb 19, (Reuters): Italian racing car builder Enzo Ferrari received hundreds of telegrams yesterday offering good wishes for his 90th birthday, which he planned to celebrate lunching with 1,742 workers at his factory.

Italian President Francesco Cossiga thanked Ferrari for all he had done for Italy "with such intelligence and passion."

Couples leads

LA JOLLA, Calif., Feb 19, (Reuters): Fred Couples fired a nine-under-par 63 yesterday to take the first-round lead in the \$650,000 San Diego Open golf tournament.

Couples used 10 birdies and a single bogey in posting his lead-in score.

Jansen's medal hopes dashed

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 19, (AP): World spring champion Dan Jansen tried to forget death and defeat and think about the Olympic medal yet to be won, but the world wouldn't let him.

For the four days after his sister's death and his fall in the 500 metres speed skating, Jansen's best event, calls and cards poured into the Olympic village.

The US luge team sent flowers. Boosters in his hometown, West Allis, Wisconsin, sent a 32-metre (96-foot) banner: "Dan be strong. Keep the faith. Wisconsin is with you all the way."

And through it all, Jansen struggled to concentrate yesterday's 1,000-metre race, his last chance in the Calgary Olympics to win a medal in his sister's memory.

But it was not meant to be. With a crowd roaring in support, Jansen fell. On a straightaway.

It looks like he caught an outer edge," Jansen's brother, Mike, said afterward. "He was giving it all he had. He just caught an outer edge and just kept going and he lost his balance."

He had recorded the fastest time for the first 200 metres. But he fell shortly after crossing the 600-metre mark in 44.02 seconds, the fastest time of the day to that point.

His worst fears had come true. "He's been trying to get it (his sister's death) out of his mind," his mother, Geraldine, said before the race from the family home. "But he said that just when he's got it in perspective, somebody sends another good-will message, a telegram or something, and then it all comes rushing back like the day it happened."

It happened on Sunday, the second day of Olympic competition. Jane Jansen Beres, 27, died after a yearlong battle with leukemia. Hours later, Jansen's hopes for a medal in her honour ended with a first-turn fall in the 500 metres that sent him crashing into the wall mats.

"Maybe it just wasn't meant to be," the 22-year-old world sprint champion said.

Then he began preparing for yesterday.

Coach Mike Crowe said Jansen appeared to have rebounded from Sunday's double tragedy and had been skating well in practice.

Robson faces fight for fitness for Cup clash

LONDON, Feb 19, (Reuters): Manchester United's England captain Bryan Robson faces yet another battle against injury to play in tomorrow's English FA Cup fifth round tie at Arsenal — but his manager admits his chances are not good.

A thigh injury caused Robson to miss England's Dreary goalless draw with Israel in the mud of Tel Aviv on Wednesday and he was flown home before the game for treatment.

"He is very doubtful, though I won't rule him out yet. We live in hope," manager Alex Ferguson said.

But Ferguson had better news with three other injured players, Norman Whiteside, Brian McClair and Viv Anderson, expected to be fit, although a groin strain may sideline Mike Duxbury.

Arsenal also have their problems. They will be without suspended Steve Williams while Michael Thomas and Tony Adams are struggling to throw off a virus.

Fans will have to wait a further 24 hours for the other major attraction of the fifth round with runaway First Division leaders Liverpool visiting near-neighbours Everton on Sunday.

Port Vale, the last surviving Third Division side in the competition and shock conquerors of Tottenham in the last round, will be hoping home ground advantage against another First Division side, Watford, will see them through to the quarterfinals.

Unfashionable Birmingham City are anticipating their biggest game for four years — a capacity 38,000 — for their clash with Brian Clough's young Nottingham Forest side.

Another full house is expected at Newcastle where extra spice has been added to their match against Wimbledon following the much publicised and controversial close-marking tactics of defender Vinny Jones on young Newcastle star Paul Gascoigne when the teams met earlier this month.

WINDS BECOME KEY PARTICIPANT IN CALGARY GAMES

East German claims place in Olympic history

CALGARY, Feb 19, (Agencies): East German luger Steffi Walter claimed her place in Olympic history yesterday as raging winds continued to disrupt the Winter Games' schedule.

A howling gale at the summit of Mount Allan forced organisers to postpone the women's Alpine downhill after the first starter, Switzerland's Brigitte Oertli, made an unsuccessful attempt to descend the course.

Uninvited Wind has become an uninvited but key participant at the Winter Olympics.

The Indians who camped at the base of the Canadian Rockies named the warm-breathed and ill-tempered westerly wind the Chinook, meaning "snow eater." At the Calgary Games, the wind might more aptly be called the "schedule eater."

In the past week, winds gusting up to hurricane strength have delayed the men's and women's downhill and the finals of the women's luge. The 90-metre jump has been twice postponed and, after the latest delay yesterday, was rescheduled for next week.

The women's downhill was pushed back today.

In the downhill, Switzerland's

Michela Figini, gold medalist in 1984, was favoured to become the only Alpine skier in Olympic history to repeat a championship.

"I prefer to have a postponement and have a regular run later, rather than competing in unfair conditions on the original day," said Figini, who was upstaged by a relatively unknown Soviet racer during the wind-plagued final training run on Wednesday.

US medal hope Pam Fletcher, who had been scheduled to run first yesterday, collided with a course volunteer during her warm-up run before the downhill postponement. She fractured a small bone in her right leg and bruised her right arm.

Revived The downhill delays revived criticism of Mount Allan as the Olympic Alpine venue.

"It's a crazy mountain and I don't like (it)," said Heinz Kreeck of West Germany, the technical director who represents the International Ski Federation at the Winter Games.

Anticipating possible weather delays, Calgary organisers spread the Games over 16 days, the longest ever for a Winter Olympics.

At the Canmore Nordic Centre today, Swedish skiers will try in the 15-kilometre cross-country race to rebound from one of their worst Olympic showings earlier in the week. However, they again will be up against the Soviet Union's Alexei Prokhorov, gold medalist in Monday's 30k race, and Vladimir Smirnov, the 30k silver medalist.

Sweden's Gunde Svan will be out to defend his 15k championship after finishing a disappointing 10th in the 30k. The Swedes attributed the poor performance to waxing problems.

After a sweep of the women's luge medals yesterday, East Germany was favoured to dominate the men's doubles today.

East Germany's Joerg Hoffmann and Jochen Pletzsch, the 1984 Olympic bronze medalists, had the fastest training times on the eve of the final. A win today would give East Germany its third luge gold medal of the games. Jens Mueller won the men's singles on Sunday.

Luge gold The women's luge gold was awarded to defending champion Steffi Walter, who had tears in her eyes as the East German flag was hoisted on all three flat stalls at last night's medal ceremony.

Teammates Ute Oberhoffner, who held the lead after the first two of four runs, took the silver and Cerstin Schmidt, the 1987 champion, the bronze. It marked the second Winter Games in a row that the East Germans monopolised the women's luge medals. Oberhoffner won the bronze medal at Sarajevo four years ago.

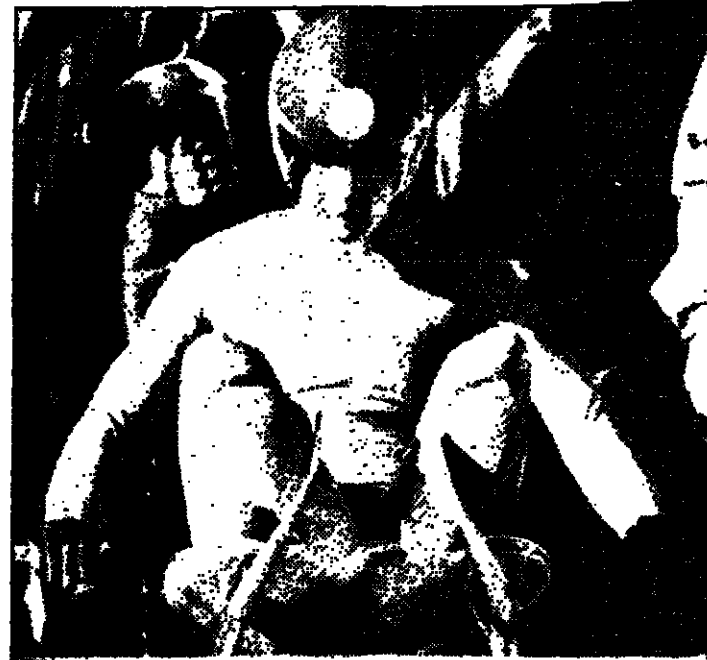
Since the sport was introduced to the Olympics — at Innsbruck, Austria, in 1964 — East German sledgers have captured 19 gold medals, 12 silver and 10 bronze.

Yesterday's sweep of the women's luge and a silver in speed skating placed East Germany second in the Calgary medal derby with six, including three gold and two silver.

Strengthened

The Soviet Union strengthened its medal lead as Nikolai Guliaev won the gold in last night's men's 1,000-metre speed skating race. A bronze was added by teammate Igor Zhelezovsky, giving the Soviets a total of 11 medals — 4 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze.

Guliaev, 1987 world speed skating champion, finished in 1:13.03, an Olympic record. Jens-Uwe Mey of East Germany, the 500-metre gold medalist,



East Germany's Steffi Walter prepares for a run down the luge course. (Reuters wirephoto)

won the silver medal and the Soviet Union's Igor Zhelezovsky won the bronze.

Prior to the start of the games, the International Olympic Committee cleared Guliaev for com-

petition after his name had been linked to a sport scandal involving delivery of steroids to Norwegian athletes. Guliaev denied knowing the package contained steroids.

Finland beat Canada in hockey

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 19, (AP): Thanks to Finland, only one thing is certain with two rounds left in "A" pool action in the Olympic hockey tournament — almost anything can happen.

The fifth-seeded Finns' 3-1 victory over No. 4 Canada last night threw the standings into a mad scramble. Only last-seeded France is out of contention for one of the three medal-round spots.

Top-seeded Sweden moved a step closer to one of those slots with a 4-2 victory over No. 9 Switzerland, but the Swiss also remain in contention despite a 1-2 record.

And No. 8 Poland, the surprise of the tournament, is in even better shape after downing France 6-2 to improve its record to 1-1-1.

Canada could have clinched a berth in the medal round with a victory last night. But Finland, which has looked strong since an opening-game loss, came out firing to quiet the hometown crowd by taking a 3-0 first-period lead on two goals by Erkki Lahtonen.

In "B" pool action today, the second-seeded Soviets and No. 6 West Germany meet in a mat-

chup of 3-0 teams. No. 3 Czechoslovakia faces No. 11 Austria, and the seven-seeded Americans try to keep their medal hopes alive against No. 10 Norway.

The Czechs have the inside track for the third spot in the medal round at 2-1, while the United States is 1-2. Both Norway and Austria are 0-3.

Wednesday night, the bottom line was a 7-5 victory for the

second-seeded Soviets over the No. 7 Americans in this year's tournament. It left the Soviet Union with a 3-0 record in the "B" pool with the United States on the verge of elimination at 1-2. Sixth-seeded West Germany earlier maintained its perfect record with a 3-1 victory over No. 11 Austria, and No. 3 Czechoslovakia downed No. 10 Norway 10-1 for its second straight victory after a first-round loss.



Soviet Union's Sergei Makarov (left) flies through the air after tripping over the USA's goalie Chris Terreri after he scored the first goal in USSR-USA hockey game on Wednesday night. (Reuters wirephoto)

American shares lead in Masters

MELBOURNE, Feb 19, (Reuters): American Jim Benezet, winner of last week's Victoria Open, continued in fine style again today with a second round two-under par 71 to keep a share in the lead at the halfway stage of the Australian Masters.

Bracketed with him on a seven-under par 139 was Australian Ian Baker-Finch who added a 70 to his first round 69 to open a two-stroke lead over the rest of the field.

West German Bernhard Langer, who had shared the lead after his first round 69, could manage only a par 73 to be in joint third place with British Open champion Nick Faldo, looking ominous after adding a second sub-par round of 71 to yesterday's 70.

Defending champion, Greg Norman was also nicely poised despite being drained by a virus, three shots of the lead after finishing strong to card a 70.

Five other players finished alongside him on 142, fellow Australians Brett Officer, Craig Parry, Ian Stanley and Jeff Woodland along with Northern Ireland's Ronan Rafferty.

President's XI declare

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Feb 19, (Reuters): An elegant and attractive innings by opening batsman Ken Rutherford injected life into pedestrian proceedings on the first day of England's cricket match against the President's XI today.

Rutherford's 57 and an accomplished 48 by Bryan Young were the main contributions to the home side's total of 181 for seven declared. England was 11 without loss at stumps.

England captain Mike Gatting won the toss and elected to bowl on a cold, grey day.

The loss of captain David White and Dipak Patel, both without scoring, in the first two overs bowled by Neal Radford produced a feeling of imminent disaster but the next wicket did not fall until 20 minutes after lunch.

Rutherford and Kevin Burns dug-in with a partnership that yielded 79 runs in 122 minutes.

There followed a near-collapse in which the President's team slumped to 109 for six. But Young and Evan Gray, who played a similar role to Burns, added 72 for the seventh wicket.

Scoreboard

PRESIDENT'S XI first innings:
K Burns lbw b Radford 28
D White c Richards b Radford 0
D Patel c Fairbrother b Radford 0
Rutherford c Robinson b Defreitas 57
R Latham c Radford b Defreitas 13
D Walker c Radford b Capel 0
E Gray not out 19
B Young c Moxon b Gatting 48
Extras (lb-5 nb-11) 16
TOTAL (for seven wickets declared) 181

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-2 3-81 4-104 5-109 6-109 7-181

Bowling: Defreitas 22-3-68-1 (10 nb), Radford 19-9-24-4 (1 nb), Jarvis 12-4-25-0, Hemmings 13-5-23-0, Capel 12-3-19-1, Gatting 62-1-17-1.

ENGLAND first innings:

M Moxon not out 8
T Robinson not out 0
Extras 0
TOTAL 11

Bowling: Millmow 3-0-6-0, De Green 3-1-5-0.

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